

THE TIMES

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Apology over Formula One fiasco

Blair promises tough rules on party funding

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Watt

TONY BLAIR today follows up a public apology for his handling of the Formula One debacle with the promise of a swift shake-up of the political funding system designed to give Britain a "healthier democracy".

After going on television yesterday to "take full responsibility" for an affair that has led to the worst crisis of his premiership, Mr Blair today backs national limits on amounts spent by the parties, "modest" ceilings on individual and company donations, and the publication of the names of donors and the amounts they give.

The moves mark a sustained effort by Mr Blair to recover his moral authority in the country, which Labour clearly fears may have been undermined.

Writing in *The Times* Mr Blair says that, if necessary, he will legislate to force all parties to open up their books about future donations in order to ensure a "level playing field". He calls for the "toughest possible set of rules" about funding, and stringent measures to prevent loopholes and avoidance through a proper policing of the system. He even suggests that business funding might be ended altogether in his vision of a "completely new world of electoral finance".

Yesterday, obviously shaken by the affair, Mr Blair admitted he had failed to focus seriously enough on the issue and agreed that the way information had emerged in a piecemeal way was unsatisfactory.

He admitted that he was "hurt and upset" because he had not expected that people would "impugn his motives". But he accepted that it had not been handled well

and he took full responsibility. However, Mr Blair remained unrepentant both about the decision to allow a longer exemption to Formula One for a European-wide ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship, and about his decision to meet Bernie Ecclestone, the boss of Formula One, on October 16 when the Government was considering ways of preventing the proposed ban damaging British sport.

It was a high-risk decision by Mr Blair to offer himself for an interview with John Humphrys on BBC's *On the Record* programme.

"We will learn the lessons. Out of the difficulties of the past week can come changes that make for a healthier democracy"

Tony Blair writes, page 22

It was driven by fears that his strong personal standing with the public, Labour's biggest asset, was in danger of being damaged as a result of the row.

Within Downing Street there is huge regret that all the facts surrounding the Ecclestone donation, and the decision to turn down further gifts, were not released earlier, as some of Mr Blair's most senior aides had recommended.

Mr Blair admitted yesterday: "It should not have come out in dribs and drabs and we should have focused on this earlier... I am sorry about this issue. I should have

realised it was going to blow up into this kind of importance but I have honestly done what I thought was best for the country all the way through."

There were also clear indications last night that the policy which has caused all the trouble could still be changed. Mr Blair made plain that the outcome on the tobacco ban would be decided in negotiations with the European Union, and there were hints that the proposed ten-year exemption for Formula One could eventually be lowered.

In spite of a robust performance, in which he emphasised time and again that he would never change a policy purely because a Labour Party donor would benefit, the Prime Minister failed to clear away all the confusion and doubts that have surrounded the saga.

In the interview Mr Blair said for the first time that he had decided not to accept a further donation from Mr Ecclestone, on top of the £1 million he had given in January, as soon as the Government decided that it would push for an exemption for Formula One.

He also admitted that he wrote to Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, the day after the Ecclestone meeting saying that the position of sport and particularly Formula One would have to be protected. But he said that there was no conflict of interest at that time because the Government had not decided on the exemptions.

Mr Blair also said he was ready to publish the names of all Labour donors since 1992, provided the Conservatives did the same.

BBC interview, page 2
Peter Riddell, page 22

Kate Bushell: popular, talented and lively churchgoing teenager who loved sport and music

Murdered girl, 14, found in field by her father

By Simon de Bruxelles

A FATHER found his 14-year-old daughter murdered in a field after she failed to return from walking a neighbour's dog.

Kate Bushell had been killed with a sharp instrument, probably a knife, and may have been sexually assaulted, the police said yesterday. The girl, described as "popular, talented and lively" by her headmaster, took the Jack Russell for an early evening walk near her home on the outskirts of Exeter on Saturday.

Her parents raised the alarm when she failed to return by nightfall. Jeremy Bushell was showing a policeman his daughter's likely route down a muddy lane 300 yards from their home when he found the fully clothed body in the field near a stile. A Home Office pathologist was last night trying to establish whether the schoolgirl had been sexually assaulted.

Detective Superintendent Michael Stephens, who is heading the inquiry, told a news conference: "This was a murder of a young innocent girl who was brutally killed just outside a residential area on the outskirts of Exeter."

Mr Stephens described Kate as a churchgoing teenager who loved sport and music. She played the piano, clarinet and saxophone and was a keen basketball player. She left home at 4.30pm, just as it was beginning to get dark, wearing a turquoise green kagoule and dark trousers and said she would be out no more than 20 minutes. It was the first time she had taken the dog out. Her parents telephoned the police at 6.44pm. At 7.35pm her father found the body with the dog near by.

Walk to death, page 3

Compensation for workers

The Government will today admit that Britain broke European law on workers' rights for more than a decade, paving the way for millions of pounds in compensation.

Public sector workers suffered sweeping cuts in pay and benefits when their jobs were transferred to the private sector in the 1980s. Page 28

Henman's title

Tim Henman eased to victory at the national championships in Telford, while Pete Sampras confirmed his continuing domination of the world game. Page 28

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Blair insists that Ecclestone gift had no influence

By Nicholas Watt
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BLAIR'S WORDS OF EXPLANATION

THE Prime Minister yesterday vigorously defended his decision to exempt Formula One from a ban on tobacco advertising and insisted that he had not been swayed by the donation by Bernie Ecclestone of £1 million to the Labour Party.

In an interview for BBC's *On the Record*, Tony Blair emphasised that he had taken swift action to avoid any conflict of interest. Mr Blair insisted that he had done nothing wrong in meeting Mr Ecclestone, the vice-president of the Fédération Internationale d'Automobile, on October 16, a few weeks before he decided to exempt Formula One from the ban: and he took the extraordinary step of agreeing to publish the notes of the meeting.

Mr Ecclestone donated £1 million to the party before the general election, and Mr Blair said that he had made a "firm commitment" to make further donations.

The Prime Minister said: "We were concerned to make sure that we didn't end up in the situation where we lost Formula One... [But] We never discussed an exemption of Formula One." At the time of the meeting Mr Blair was looking at options other than exempting Formula One.

Mr Blair pointed out that Mr Ecclestone had held discussions with other European Union leaders. "What would be odd, particularly after he had seen other heads of government — that because he had been a donor you refuse to see him... I had absolutely no intention of changing the policy because of the interests of Bernie Ecclestone."

Mr Blair agreed to publish notes of the meeting, made by an official, to prove that it had not influenced policy. He said: "He did not make it into a

On meeting Ecclestone
"I think it would have been bizarre if the bloke had been in a worse position as a result of donating to the Labour Party. I had absolutely no intention whatever of changing the policy because of the interests of Bernie Ecclestone."

On further donations
"Though we thought there had been a firm commitment to further donations to Labour back in May... no money had been received or paid over and I had then rescinded, as it were, the offer, so it couldn't have had any possible impact."

On disclosure
"I am perfectly happy to disclose the names of donors."

On honesty
"I think most people who have dealt with me think I'm a pretty straight sort of guy — and I am."

formal minute because there was no decision taken at that meeting and nothing actually new was said really."

In the week beginning November 3, the Government decided to exempt Formula One from a proposed EU ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship. As soon as the Government informed the European Commission of its decision, Mr Blair acted to prevent a conflict of interest.

He told the BBC: "At that point in time, I said — of course we can't accept any further donations from Mr Ecclestone. Before any journalists had been in touch with us we had told Mr Eccle-

stone's people we could not accept any further donations."

Mr Blair decided that Labour should write to Sir Patrick Neill, the standards watchdog, to seek his advice about what the party should do with Mr Ecclestone's original donation. The Prime Minister said: "We got his advice back on Monday [November 10]. We published that advice and we followed it to the letter."

Conservatives criticised Mr Blair after he failed to mention the possibility of a second donation in the Commons last week. Mr Blair insisted he had not misled the House. He said that as no further money had been received, and he had decided that none would be accepted, "it couldn't have had any possible impact."

Mr Blair said he was "perfectly happy to disclose the names of donors" immediately. "Going back from 1992, provided that it is not just Labour that has to do this but the other parties too."

The Prime Minister said that individual donations could be limited. "You could say, if you wanted, that it was a £5,000 limit. I'm not committing myself to that. If Sir Patrick says to recommend that, we would be happy."

He added: "If you are going to have no state funding, but private donations, I can't see how it's going to be possible to raise any money if whenever a business could possibly be affected by any aspect of policy you then say you can't accept a donation. It's a point of principle we need to decide."

Towards the end of the interview, Mr Blair said that he had not lost the trust of the electorate: "I hope that people know me well enough to realise I would never do anything to harm the country or anything improper. I think most people who have dealt with me think I'm a pretty straight sort of guy and I am."



Blair looks pointedly at Humphrys...



... as his eyes seem to bulge angrily...



... we notice face powder for the first time

The honeymoon is over despite effort to make up

THIS Prime Minister has never looked so downright cross. His frustration argued at the same time for innocence, yet loss of control. The sweaty lip, the flowering eyeballs, the worn, strained and scratchy look, and the impression of a touch too much make-up may stay in viewers' minds long after the arguments are over.

A relaxed John Humphrys, fingering his chin coolly, caused the Prime Minister to appear rattled and angry, and say nothing very much. The credit Mr Blair had bought by volunteering this interview he spent through an appearance of being cornered. Within months, few outside the world of political journalism will remember much of what Humphrys asked or Blair replied. Instead, they will remember the look and sound of an embattled premier; they will remember the way his eyes seemed to bulge angrily, just as Margaret Thatcher's used to; they will remember noticing face powder for the first time; and they may remember a moment when the Prime Minister seemed close to losing his rag as he told Humphrys, with the implied menace of an over-weening head prefect, to "spit it out" and stop hiding his own opinions behind those of others.

I felt some sympathy for Mr Blair. Time and again politicians are reminded (John Major often was — to no effect) that however peeved you feel, it never helps to sound peeved. Blair looked and sounded utterly exasperated. It could be righteous indignation that makes him so, but the impression was of impotent fury — a loss of control of events. In a Prime Minister this does not do, and in Tony Blair we have hardly seen it before.

"Do you regret that?" asked Humphrys. "I explain it," shot Blair, with an air of irritated rationality. "But you're still not saying 'I got things wrong'." The Prime Minister's face looked like

thunder. Under pressure, Mr Blair sends confusing signals. His performance remains fairly controlled. It was notable that at awkward moments he was struggling with a desire to look down at the table rather than up at his interviewer, but determined to gaze Humphrys in the eye at key points, which he did in an almost studied way. One was reminded of a drama school graduate or a Dale Carnegie course in making friends and influencing people.

Yet, despite iron self-possession and a beautiful suit, an impression persists of Mr Blair's being in some way adrift, awaiting instructions. Here was a Bertie Wooster, seriously in the soup, screaming silently for his Jeeves.

As we watched Mr Blair before Sunday lunch, and recalled Rory Bremner's caricature of a cocky and over-wired marionette, Bremner never looked crueler. The Prime Minister's penultimate line, rang true for me. He would never, he said, do anything he believed wrong for the country. Watching him as he spoke, few will have felt they were looking at a crook.

But his final line was less convincing. "The country's got to look at me and, in a sense, get to decide whether the person they believed in is the same person they've got now." It was unwise to ask viewers to make that comparison. Even his supporters may have felt they had just watched a man different in many ways from the Tony Blair who first took over the Labour Party. He seemed to have lost authority. His plea that we trust him carried the echo of a husband accused of infidelity, assuring his wife she is looking at the same man as the one who proposed to her and carried her over the threshold; nothing has changed. But of course, everything has. These melancholy exchanges do take place, once the honeymoon is over.

MATTHEW PARRIS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prudential sorry for pensions scandal

Sir Peter Davis, head of Prudential Corporation, has apologised publicly for the pensions mis-selling scandal, under which about half a million people were wrongly advised to leave occupational schemes in favour of high-charging personal pensions.

Sir Peter, who heads the Government's Welfare to Work programme, said he was "ashamed" at his firm's role in the debacle. Speaking on BBC's *The Money Programme*, he said: "We're doing everything we can to deal with it as quickly as we can."

Warning on the Hamilton verdict

Anthony King, Professor of Government at the University of Essex and a founding member of the Nolan Committee, says in a letter to *The Times* today that the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee has left the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards in an "ambiguous and unsatisfactory position" following its decision on Neil Hamilton.

Letters, page 23

Lottery cash to buy sail ships

Two deep-sea tall ships, which will enable double the present number of young people to test their skills on a traditional sailing ship, are to be bought with the help of National Lottery cash.

The Sail Training Association is to fit out the two steel hulls in British boatyards to a British design at a cost of £10 million, £3.5 million of which has been provided by lottery funds.

Police expert in guns inquiry

A police gun expert has been suspended during an inquiry into his own claims for compensation under the legislation to outlaw handguns. South Yorkshire Police are investigating claims made by DC Will Lander, who supervised the force's collection of 2,000 full-bore weapons and advised the Home Office and other forces on firearms issues, over his personal collection of 10 firearms.

Attack victim left for two days

A burglary victim was attacked with an axe, bound and left bleeding in his home for two days before a visitor found him. The victim was last night recovering in hospital with serious injuries as detectives began to hunt the masked intruder who confronted him at his flat in Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, last week. Police want to trace a woman who sold a number of CDs at a shop near the victim's home.

Centre to combat antiquity looting

A research centre to combat the trade in illicit antiquities looted from archaeological sites will be launched in London tomorrow. It will be led by Professor Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorpe, director of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at Cambridge University. The new centre says the real value of artifacts is destroyed once they are removed from their archaeological context.

Hague seeks Branson knighthood

By Andrew Pierce
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BRANSON, who last week publicly criticised Tony Blair's decision to exclude Formula One from the tobacco sponsorship ban, is being recommended for a knighthood by William Hague.

The head of the Virgin empire has met Mr Hague only once, at the formal handover of Hong Kong to China, and has become firmly identified with the Blair administration. The Tory leadership refused to comment last night on a letter which Mr Hague has sent to Downing Street urging a knighthood for Mr Branson. The Tory leader has also recommended Martin Taylor, the chief executive of Barclays

Bank, who is also regarded as a supporter of the new Government. The Tories dismissed as speculation the idea that Mr Hague has also recommended Bernie Ecclestone for a knighthood.

Mr Branson declined to discuss the prospect of being knighted as Sir Richard. "I don't know anything about this," he said last night. Friends said it was by no means certain that he would accept a knighthood if one was offered.

Mr Branson, who has been approached unsuccessfully by the big political parties for donations, will continue to work with the Government to try to find alternative forms of sponsorship for sport. In a letter to *The Independent* today, Mr Branson speaks of his pleasure at attending a government conference three months ago

where ministers pledged to ban all sponsorship of sport by tobacco companies within three years. "The week before last I was telephoned in the United States by an embarrassed minister, to be told that Formula One would be excluded. I pointed out that I felt bitterly disappointed as I was sure the rest of the country would. That to treat a rich sport paying drivers £5 million a year differently from sports like cricket, fishing or snooker just did not stack up."

Mr Branson scorned the argument that up to 50,000 jobs would be lost if Formula One had not been excluded: "They were breaking their election pledges and letting millions of young non-smokers down. I knew most of the teams well and they were committed to England."

Banks confident of ban on hunting

By Polly Newton
POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BANKS, the Sports Minister, yesterday gave the clearest signal yet that hunting may be outlawed before the next election. Mr Banks, a long-time animal welfare campaigner, said the Government had already indicated that it would allow time during this Parliament for anti-hunting legislation.

Speaking on BBC's *Breakfast* with Frost, Mr Banks said: "I'm confident that we're actually going to get it through in the course of this Parlia-

ment... as long as we get it through in this Parliament I'm going to be happy."

His comments follow the Government's decision not to allocate time during this Parliamentary session — which ends in the autumn of 1998 — for the passage of a Private Member's Bill that would ban hunting with hounds.

Ministers feared that it would provoke lengthy arguments in the House of Lords, allowing Conservative peers to delay the passage of key Government legislation including Bills to create the Scottish Parliament and the

Welsh Assembly. However, their decision not to back the Bill is known to have angered some of those Labour MPs who oppose hunting, and Downing Street has not discouraged speculation that time might be found for anti-hunting legislation.

Mr Banks said that he would support the Bill, which has been put forward by the Labour MP for Worcester, Michael Foster. It has its second reading in the Commons on November 28. "I think we'll get a massive majority in the House of Commons and I think that

party managers can then draw their own conclusions from that subsequently."

One possibility is that the Government will allow time for another Private Member's Bill after it has abolished the voting rights of hereditary peers. Or it might propose a ban on hunting as a single clause in a Government Bill that is guaranteed cross-party support.

Labour's election manifesto committed the party to allowing its MPs a free vote on hunting but stopped short of promising Parliamentary time for legislation.

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997

HOME NEWS 3

Last walk of a friendly neighbour

Helpful pupil Kate was killed doing a good turn

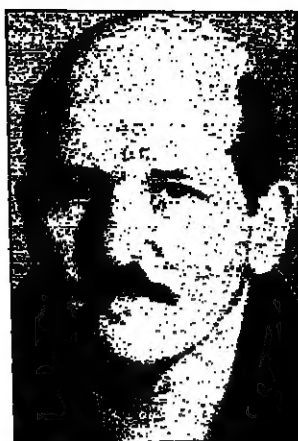
BY SIMON DE BRUNELLES

DARKNESS was beginning to fall as Kate Bushell put on her turquoise cagoule and told her parents she was going out for no more than 20 minutes to walk the neighbour's Jack Russell, Gemma.

She had volunteered so that the neighbours could go away for the weekend, a gesture friends said was typical of Kate who would go out of her way to help anyone. The route she took along Exwick Lane divides the private estate of modern red-brick boxes from the unspoilt countryside beyond.

Exwick is a sprawling suburb which meanders up the hillside on the other side of the river and railway line from Exeter city centre. At 4.30 on Saturday evening it would still have been possible to look out over the rooftops to the 11th-century cathedral of St Peter's.

When their daughter did not return Kate's parents Jeremy, 44, and Susan, 41, became concerned. The murder team of 30 officers, who yesterday sealed off the lane where the body was found and began house to house inquiries, have little to go on. They do not know whether Kate's killer was lying in wait for a victim, had followed her from



Maddern: he said Kate was a model pupil

home or may even have arranged to meet her in the unlit lane.

The headteacher of St Thomas's High School where Kate was a "model" pupil said it had been the 14-year-old's ultimate ambition to go to Oxford. Steve Maddern said: "Kate Bushell certainly had the academic ability. She was a popular, talented and lively girl, and her murder hits at the core of our school."

More immediately, she had her debut with the school's basketball team to look forward to this week. She was also a member of the school

orchestra. Mr Maddern met Kate's parents yesterday afternoon. He described them as "distraught" and said: "One thing Kate's mother said to me was that you never had to remind her to do her homework. In fact she had done half of her weekend's homework before taking the dog for a walk."

A lone bouquet was tied to the gates of the 1,200 pupil high school with the words "Why? You will always be missed" written on a note attached to it.

Mr Maddern said: "Kate had a promising future and was a keen musician. She had a ready smile and was fun to be with, she was intelligent, co-operative and mature in her outlook. She was everything you could hope for in a student. Her loss will be felt throughout the school and we are making special assembly and counselling arrangements tomorrow to help students and staff come to terms with this dreadful tragedy."

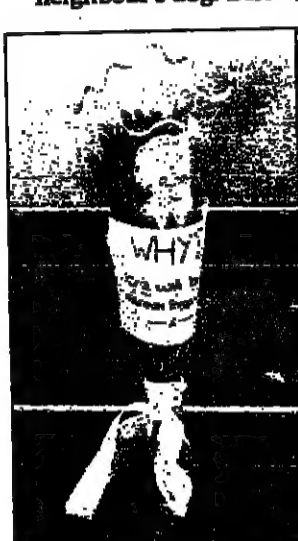
"Students and staff will be shocked and numb by this awful news and our hearts go out to Kate's family and friends who will be devastated by the loss of one so young who had everything to live for. We can only hope that the police catch whoever is responsible for this sickening crime as quickly as possible."

Prayers were said for her at the Sunday morning service held by the evangelical Isca Fellowship where the Bushell family worship. Church elder Stephen Randall said: "Kate was the least likely girl I can imagine this happening to. Our reaction is one of pure horror." Mr Randall, 36, described how Kate was involved in raising funds for Bosnian charities and was a regular helper at the church which meets in a local school.

The family moved to their modern, three-bedroom detached home in Exwick seven years ago. Mr Bushell is believed to have taken early retirement from his job with Devon county council's education department last year to devote his time to charitable work in Bosnia. Another neighbour said he had recently returned from an aid trip to the Balkans. By an unlikely



Police standing guard at the lane in Exwick, where Kate Bushell, 14, was found murdered after walking a neighbour's dog. Below, flowers left at the scene, and the house to which the Bushells moved seven years ago



coincidence, the murder victim Lin Russell, who was killed in a frenzied hammer attack in Kent 18 months ago, lived in the same street when her husband, Shaun, was a lecturer at the university in the mid-1970s.

Many people walk their dogs in the same narrow lane which passes close to the Guide Dogs for the Blind's

national training centre at Cleve House.

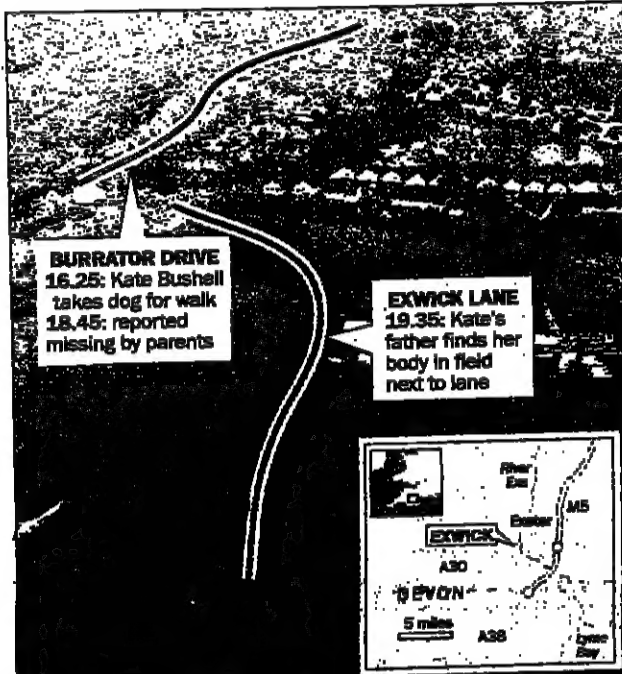
Emma Browne, aged 14, one of Kate's best friends, laid flowers close to the spot where she was killed. She said: "I don't know how anyone could do something like this to Kate. She wouldn't harm anyone. It is such a shame because she was so brainy and she would have got very good GCSEs."

She would always help others and never do anything to put anyone else down. There have been rumours going around about the lane where she was killed. I would not have gone up there before this happened and I certainly will not do so now."

Other local youngsters said there had been rumours about people being chased down the

narrow lane last year and they had stayed away from it.

Hill Daniel, a neighbour, said: "I did not know the girl very well but I did see her out walking a friend's dog while I was walking my spaniel. The lane where she was killed is very popular with dog walkers and leads down past the Blind Dog centre towards open fields."



Mother loses children on 'technicality'

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN has been ordered to uphold her children and take them to her estranged husband in France after he succeeded in using the Hague Convention on child abduction to secure their return. The children, aged 12 and 9, had only lived for nine months of their lives in France.

Hélène Lawrence left Newhaven on Friday to meet a High Court deadline for her to comply with the custody order obtained by her husband.

Normally the Hague Convention on child abduction is used in "tug of love" cases where one parent illegally seizes children from the other and absconds from their country of residence.

This order was granted to British-born David Lawrence, an electrical engineer living near Paris, after the couple decided to move to France last autumn with their two children, Edward, 12, and Gabrielle, 9. Nine months later, in July, the relationship broke down and Mrs Lawrence, 45, who has lived in Britain for 20 years although she is French-born, returned to her home in Hampshire. Her husband successfully

made an application under the Hague Convention, although normally a custody order would not be granted where children had been resident in the country from which they had been removed for less than a year.

Mrs Lawrence said yesterday that the children were devastated at having to leave school and their friends again. She is in touch with Reunite, the national council for abducted children, which is concerned that she fell foul of a legal technicality because she did not go to a solicitor with expertise in child abduction law. Denise Carter, the director, said: "Our view is that the court should never have granted this application. It should have looked more carefully at the case."

"These children had only been in France for nine months and therefore it is questionable whether it could not really be called their country of habitual residence." But, because Mrs Lawrence had agreed willingly to follow her husband to France, that had counted against her in determining the children's habitual residence.

Missing girl, 13, may be on her way to Spain

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

AIRPORTS and ports were put on alert yesterday for a 13-year-old girl believed to have run off with a customer she met at her mother's bar on the Costa del Sol.

Police fear Sally Claydon secretly kept in touch with the 47-year-old man known as Bruce after returning to her home in Harlow, Essex, from Fuengirola earlier this month. The blonde teenager vanished with her passport and summer clothes on Saturday.

Sergeant Karen Brimston, of Essex Police, said Sally looked mature for her years and

could be travelling in a white Transit van. "The indications are that she is leaving the country, possibly heading back to Spain," she said.

Sally's mother, Sharon Walsh, who ran the Captain Hook bar in Fuengirola before returning to Britain on November 3, is said to be distraught. Her daughter had met "Bruce" often in the bar but, unknown to her, had kept in touch after they returned to Britain on the same ferry.

She discovered the relationship only when she found her missing on Saturday night and could not find her despite numerous telephone calls to friends. Sergeant Brimston said that, although Sally had pretended to her mother that she had hated Spain, she told schoolfriends that she had had a wonderful time.

"Pieces of the jigsaw are all fitting together. It has all been planned," she said. "She apparently changed a lot in Spain. She's only taken the more adult clothes, like skimpy dresses, and left her more childish things behind. She has told her schoolfriends she is not a schoolgirl anymore and is more like 21."



Sally Claydon: may be headed for Fuengirola

Italian taste for spice turns sour

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY, which invariably gives a warm welcome to British pop groups, should have been the place where the Spice Girls halted the sudden downward spiral of Girl Power and relaunched themselves on a wave of adoration. It didn't quite work out that way.

Instead, Italians gave them the thumbs down at the weekend, comparing them unfavourably to Oasis — "the real voice of today's neo-pop, not a passing synthetic creation" — who were rapturously received in Bologna and who are eagerly awaited today in Milan.

To make matters worse the girls' hotel on the Via Veneto was abuzz with rumours — denied all round — that Emma Bunton (Baby Spice), the alleged cause of the band's troubles because of her "relationship" with Simon Fuller,

their sacked manager, had chosen Rome to seal the band's demise by absconding with him. Hotel staff confirmed that Bunton had left the building "before dawn" for "a rendezvous", and had missed breakfast.

By coincidence — or not, since he presumably knew their European tour schedule by heart — Rome was where Mr Fuller took refuge after being fired.

But Bunton returned and appeared with the other four on television yesterday afternoon. Geri Halliwell (Ginger Spice) pointedly told the audience on the afternoon chat show *Domenica In* (Sunday In): "We are all together." But they performed only one song and left before the bemused presenter could ask them anything. He was left gazing at their departing backs

as they called "Arrivederci" over their shoulders.

Only a month ago, the Italians were hailing the Spice Girls — along with the England football team — as the vanguard of Tony Blair's Britain. But the gloss appears to have worn off. "Not so spicy after all," said the headline in *La Repubblica* yesterday. "Spice Girls land in a desert of fans," declared *Il Messaggero*.

The contrast with Oasis could hardly have been sharper. "The difference is obvious," said *Corriere della Sera*. "Oasis are manipulated, like all pop groups, but they are original and have natural talent. The Spice Girls are merely a synthetic creation, dreamed up in a laboratory, with a limited life expectancy."

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"A quick nip in the back of the neck," they say, "and he's dead."

If only.

Foxhounds tend to go for the softer option.

The belly.

This brings the fox down, but doesn't immediately kill it.

Death usually occurs by disembowelment.

There are those who would argue that this is no more than a fox deserves.

After all, they say, foxes are themselves killers and need to be controlled.

Whilst it's true that foxes do occasionally take lambs, many of these are likely to be already dead.

(20% of lambs born each year die from hypothermia, malnutrition or disease, or are

stillborn.) And the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food estimates the number of lambs taken by foxes to be not significant.

The notion that hunting is necessary to control the fox population is equally unfounded.

At least 200,000 foxes are killed every year by shooting, snaring or in road accidents. Only about 15,000 are killed by hunting.



Where foxes are deemed a pest, it is more efficient and more humane for them to be shot by a marksman.

The RSPCA has long campaigned against all hunting with dogs.

We believe that the hounding and killing of wild animals is cruel and unacceptable in a civilised society.

A Private Member's Bill seeking to ban hunting with dogs comes before Parliament

on November 28th.

A MORI poll taken in October this year shows that 73% of people support the Bill.

We want to turn that overwhelming weight of public opinion into legislation.

November 28th is a Friday when many MPs will be back in their constituencies.

We want you to persuade them to stay in the House that day and vote to end this cruel "sport" once and for all.

You can write to your MP direct at the House of Commons.

Or call the RSPCA on 01403 223 284 (9am-5pm weekdays) and we'll send you a campaign pack.

Foxhunting is cruel and unnecessary.

It's about time we made it illegal.



Ban hunting with dogs.

THE AIMS OF THE RSPCA ARE TO PREVENT CRUELTY AND PROMOTE KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

Royal Train could be heading for the sidings

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Royal Train could be scrapped as part of a radical reform of the monarchy, according to one of the Queen's inner aides.

The train was already under threat from MPs after official figures showed it had cost taxpayers £12.3 million in five years, an average of £67,000 for each of its 183 journeys.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales has accelerated the reform of the monarchy, with a slimmed-down, cheaper version of the Royal Family now likely, says Simon Gimson, who left his post as head of the Palace Policy Unit a fortnight ago.

Abolition is ruled out, and so is skipping a generation to let Prince William take the crown instead of the Prince of Wales. But the Royal Family will be slimmed down naturally, he says. "We have a lot of active members of the Royal Family at the moment," Mr Gimson, speaking with the consent of the Palace, tells tonight's *Panorama* on BBC1. "There are a good dozen and I think over time, if one looks

BUTLER HELPS TO CHOOSE MEMORIAL

The butler who served Diana, Princess of Wales for nine years and was honoured by the Queen for his services last week, is to help decide on a fitting memorial to his former employer (Peter Foster writes). Paul Burrell, 39, became a confidant of the late Princess during his time at Kensington Palace. Downing Street has confirmed that Mr Burrell, awarded the Royal Victoria

an Medal on the nomination of the Princess, will sit on a government committee of ten members, to be chaired by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. Mr Brown is expected to announce the full list of members later this week. Names linked to the committee include Earl Spencer and Lady Sarah McCorquodale, Baroness Chalker and Lord Attenborough.

Leading article, page 23

Queen is said to favour. It has 14 coaches, but rarely are they all used.

Mr Gimson, who had been Special Assistant to the Queen's Private Secretary Sir Robert Fellowes, admits the Palace was concerned about public reaction in the week after the Princess's death. "We weren't sure which way the mood was going to swing," he says. "I think there was some hostility there originally."

He denies that the Royal Family failed to capture the public mood. "What they perhaps don't do is foghorn, is trumpet their emotions, they simply keep it to themselves and then at an appropriate time express themselves."

The Palace acknowledged the public mood for change and reform, he says. "People have been demanding a slimmed-down monarchy for a long time. It's going to happen inevitably." Mr Gimson adds that the Prince of Wales has for some time been taking on greater responsibility and says of the idea of skipping a generation to favour Prince William: "It isn't going to happen."

in a bald, actuarial way at it, members of the Royal Family who are currently very active are going to get old ... If you look at the next generation coming through, there are far fewer who will be there to do public engagements in ten or 15 years."

Mr Gimson says the Princess's death has speeded reform. "The organisation probably needs to move down that track a little bit more rapidly than it has been until now," he says. "The Palace is

looking very carefully at specific changes, at radical changes, at gentle changes."

Mr Gimson confirms that the Palace is considering scrapping the Royal Train. He tells the programme: "Yes, and there may be decisions on that."

The 150-year-old train, run by a private American firm, Wisconsin Railways, has bullet-proof windows and steel-plated sides. Its top speed is 100mph, slower than the InterCity trains which the



The Prince of Wales and Lady Tryon at a charity polo match in July 1991

Lady Tryon died after skin graft operation

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

LADY TRYON, described by the Prince of Wales as "the only woman who really understands me", died after a skin graft. It was disclosed yesterday.

She developed blood poisoning after the minor operation last week to treat bed sores. Lady Tryon, 49, nicknamed Kanga by the Prince when he met her in Australia, was confined to a wheelchair last year after becoming paralysed from the waist down when she fell from the first-floor window of a private health clinic.

She died in the intensive care unit of the London Clinic. With her were her elder daughter, Zoe, who had flown from Australia, and her brother, Derek Harper, Lord Tryon — they married in 1973 — had filed for divorce in September on the ground that she caused him a stress-related illness.

Obituary, page 25

Anniversary is a testing time for the Queen

By ALAN HAMILTON

THIS week's golden wedding anniversary of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh looks like turning into a major national event, despite the couple's own wish that it be an essentially family affair. Several planned public appearances will be an opportunity to test public reaction to the monarchy after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, when the Queen was criticised for her decision to remain at Balmoral while London saw an unprecedented outpouring of public grief.

Official celebrations begin tomorrow, when the Queen and the Duke travel to the City of London for a Guildhall lunch hosted by the Lord Mayor. In the evening, the couple and most of the remaining crowned heads of Europe will attend a gala concert at the Royal Festival Hall, masterminded by Prince Edward.

Jan Holm, Sir Donald Sinden and Dame Diana Rigg will perform extracts from Shakespeare's plays and sonnets to tell a story of courtship and marriage. Musical performances will range from John Dankworth and Dame Cleo Laine to the London Philharmonic Orchestra and operatic

soloists. The programme includes the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, *Tonight from West Side Story* and the love duet from Verdi's *Otello*.

On Thursday, the actual anniversary, the Queen and Prince will attend a televised thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey, where they were married. Afterwards, they are expected to go on a walkabout in Parliament Square around midday, before being greeted at 10 Downing Street by the Prime Minister and his wife. The four will then walk across Whitehall to Inigo Jones's Banqueting House, the last remaining vestige of the old royal palace of Whitehall, for a lunch hosted by the Government, at which most members of the Cabinet are expected to attend.

In the evening, the royal couple will finally achieve some degree of privacy, when they attend a ball in the newly restored apartments of Windsor Castle for themselves, their family, their guests and friends. For the Queen, the completion of fire damage repair to her favourite official residence is the best anniversary gift she could have wished for.

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Gulf War pesticides linked to illness

NEW evidence has emerged that exposure to toxic pesticides in the Gulf War may be directly linked to the illnesses suffered by veterans of the conflict over the last six years. Fresh research into the health hazards arising from exposure to organophosphate pesticides has revealed that at least 10 per cent of people exposed over a period of time to the pesticides developed a disorder that led to brain damage.

The research, carried out by

Exposure to sprays could lead to brain damage, writes Michael Evans

Robert Davies, a consultant psychiatrist and a member of the Organophosphate Scientific Forum, will strengthen demands for compensation from the 1,300 Gulf War veterans who have been given official diagnoses of a range of illnesses, including chronic fatigue, skin disorders, muscular pains and shortness of breath.

Although government stud-

ies have so far failed to back the veterans' claims that they are suffering from a unique Gulf War syndrome, one of the official research programmes is currently examining the possible risks from organophosphate poisoning.

Organophosphate pesticide spraying of British tents in Saudi Arabia was carried out on a comprehensive scale, although it took two years for

the Conservative Government to announce this fact in the Commons, after Ministry of Defence officials incorrectly told ministers that the use of such toxic insecticides was only limited.

Dr Davies, consultant at a psychiatric hospital in Taunton, undertook three studies over 18 months, examining about 450 people who claimed to have suffered from organo-

phosphate pesticide exposure, including Gulf War soldiers, farmers and horticultural workers.

In a scientific paper he has sent to the Department of Health and the *Lancet*, Dr Davies has renamed the syndrome Chronic OP-Induced Neuropsychiatric Disorder. He said he and a colleague, Ghose Ahmed, also a consultant psychiatrist, found the

causal link between organophosphates (OP) and Gulf War syndrome. "Victims all describe the same symptoms, unlike any encountered in general psychiatry before," he said, adding: "It's not depression or anxiety, it's a pattern of brain, nerve and muscle damage which is expressed in mood instability. I cannot yet say if the damage is permanent but my impression is that it is."

Among the symptoms identified by Dr Davies were flu-like illness, personality change, characterised by depression and irritability, impulsive suicidal thinking and language disorder. He said: "The work establishes that these people's symptoms have definitely been caused by OP. There is no doubt, no stronger scientific proof could be needed."

Dr Davies criticised the official study into the health risks of OP, now being carried out by the Institute of Occupational Health in Edinburgh. He said: "It will largely ignore the psychological damage of exposure to the chemical. That study is now very limited. In my view it was deliberately rigged to avoid looking at psychiatric illnesses because of the compensation implications."

River guardians call for ban on sheep dips

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent



De Ramsey: concerns

A BAN on a new generation of sheep dips is being demanded by anglers, landowners and salmon experts amid claims that the chemicals are killing rivers. Tiny amounts of the chemicals — introduced as alternatives to dips which were linked with ill health in farmers — can eradicate the insects and invertebrate life in a water course, studies have found.

Critics fear the spread of the dips, called synthetic pyrethroids, threaten the rivers in Scotland, the North West, Wales and the South West. In Cumbria, the worst-hit county, invertebrate life has been killed in up to 100 miles of water, including the River Eden, after a series of pollution incidents in recent months.

James Carr, a vice-chairman of the

Salmon and Trout Association and chairman of the Environment Agency's regional advisory committee, said yesterday that the Eden was one of Britain's finest salmon and trout rivers. It is a proposed Special Area of Conservation under the European Species and Habitats Directive because of its fish life.

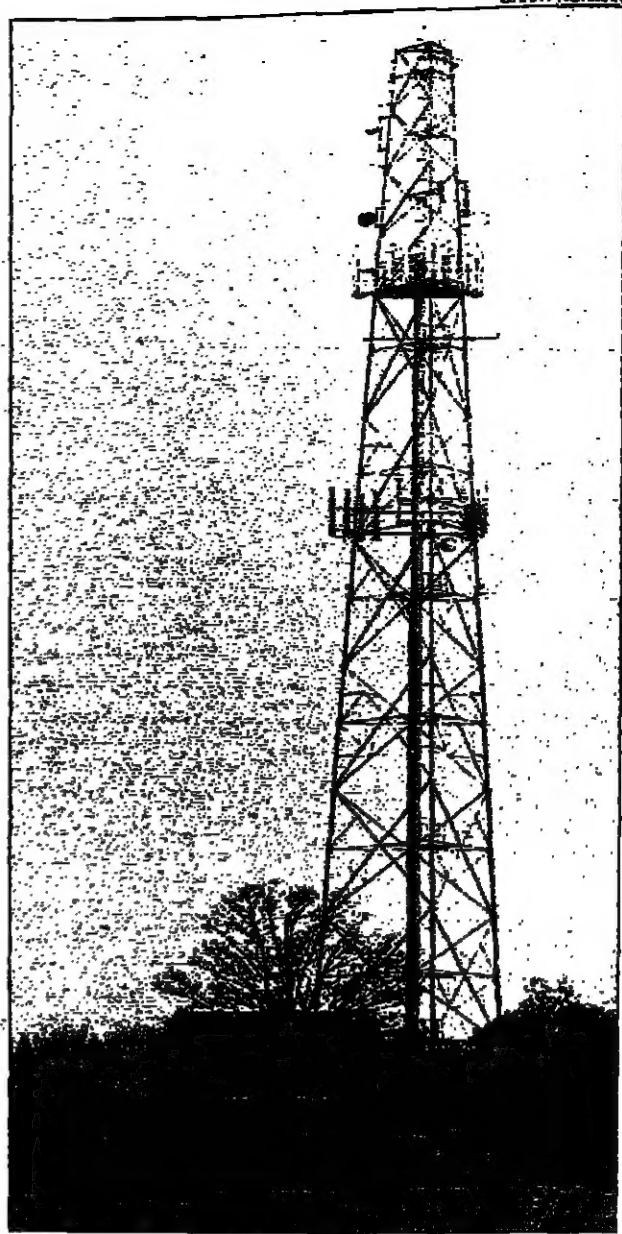
"The problem with these new products is that they are particularly lethal. A teaspoon can kill hundreds of metres of river by killing aquatic insect life which is the vital component in the food chain for fish and other wildlife," he said. Mr Carr said the impact of the new chemicals was only just emerging.

The products, introduced around 18 months ago, are designed to replace

organophosphate sheep dips which have been blamed for a range of ailments among farmers. The new chemicals are less toxic to man. But critics claim the Government's Veterinary Medicines Directorate, under pressure to find alternatives to organophosphates, have failed to assess the wider environmental impact.

The Environment Agency said yesterday that it was visiting farmers to advise them about the dangers of the new dips to the environment. It will next week be issuing a "strong statement about sheep dips. We are very concerned."

Lord De Ramsey, the agency's chairman, is also expected to raise the matter with Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Secretary, in two weeks.



GRANT NORMAN

The radio mast brings in £33,000 a year in rent

Hundreds signal interest in mast

A 160ft radio mast, on the market at £160,000, has attracted more than 300 inquiries from potential buyers, (Dominic Kennedy writes).

Some of those showing an interest are refugees from the stock market who believe the narrow pole at Hill Farm Radio Station, near Fulbourn in Cambridgeshire, has a more stable future than the FTSE index.

The Government requires communications companies to share space on the masts to

avoid the countryside turning into a giant pin cushion. The Hill Farm pole, annual rent £33,000, is already shared by half a dozen groups, including mobile telephone networks and paging organisations.

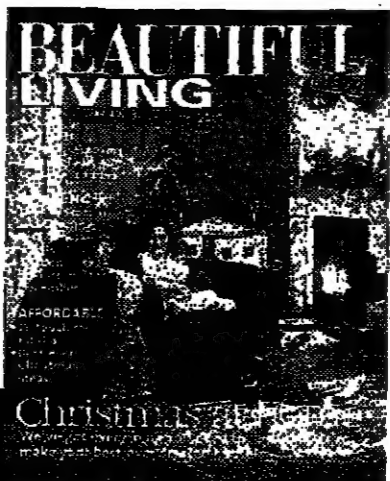
Leo Hickish, a partner in Strutt & Parker, the estate agents handling the sale, was surprised that a country pole was now as desirable as a country pile. "This is a novelty," he said. "It is of a par to the sale of big estates, when everything goes ballistic."



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By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

Geary Adams: under

The Downing Street visit would also compensate for the almost certain rejection by Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, of the renewed appeal by Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness for the use of Commons offices and facilities. They have both refused to swear allegiance to the Oireachtas and take their seats.

The series began last night on Grampian and Scottish TV, and talks are going ahead for a possible nationwide screening on Channel 4. The setting of the sparsely populated 17-mile glen includes the breathtaking scenery of Scotland's second largest deer

Less than 150 years ago, Strathconon had a Gaelic-speaking population of around 600 people, lots of sheep and a single laird. There are now less than 100

the 1,000 sheep removed completely. Vermen such as foxes are left alone because of a belief that nature will find its own balance. The aim is to return Strathconon

Murdoch Laing, a wealthy Canadian who runs nearby Scardroy estate along traditional hunting and shooting lines, has deep reservations.

hour of tape, but sadly couldn't find one coherent sentence, his accent was so strong."

By LIN JENKINS

Three months later, it emerged that the bomber had turned his attention to Sainsbury's. He threatened to bomb supermarkets unless he was paid a reported £500,000.

TV listings, page 5



A battle over the land: residents of Strathconon, whose activities were filmed for a year for the new fly-on-the-wall series

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

as does Dennis MacLeod, a gold tycoon who lives at Scatwell Lodge in the glen. Mr MacLeod said: "We are all in favour of conserving the land, but it seems that the Danes' ideas preclude all economic activity, which could be divisive down the line."

Despite the serious undercurrents, *A Glen for All Seasons* has many lighter moments, featuring the Highland Games and a wild Christmas party, as well as a "memorable" pheasant shoot, according to the producer.

During the year, there were no births in the glen, and only one death, of Kenny Urquhart, who had lived in the glen all his life. The crew had filmed his reminiscences, but they could not find one useable take. Mr Brocklebank said: "We scoured half an

hour of tape, but sadly couldn't find one coherent sentence, his accent was so strong."

TV listings, page 51

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Last days of Titanic in the lens of a Jesuit priest

AN IRISH Jesuit priest who photographed the last days of the passengers and crew of the Titanic has had his work compiled in a book for the first time.

Frank Browne boarded the liner for her maiden voyage at Southampton and sailed to Cherbourg and Queenstown — now Cobh — in Cork, where he disembarked. An avid photographer, he captured the liner's first days at sea in pictures. Most of his subjects drowned after the ship, en route to New York, hit an iceberg off Cape Race in the Atlantic on April 15, 1912. More than 1,500 people perished.

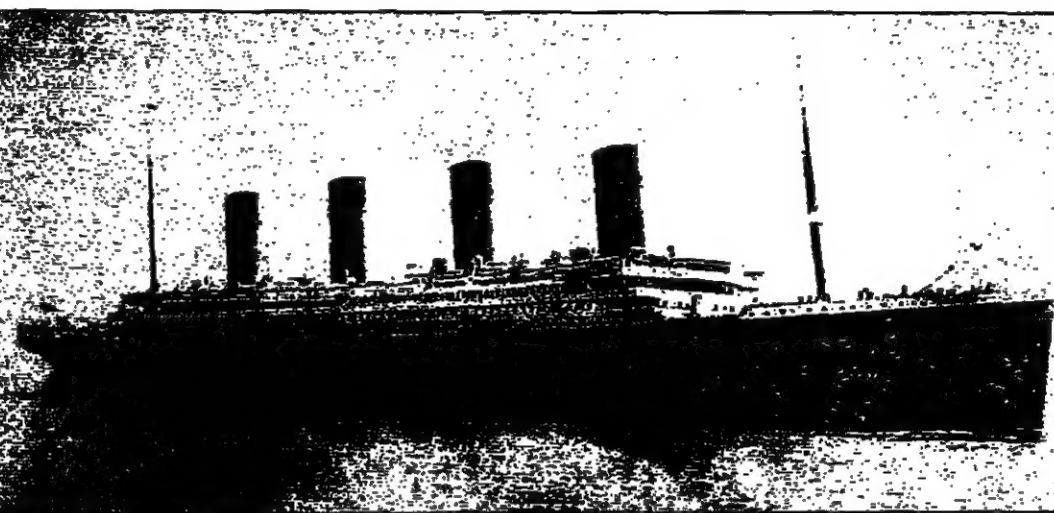
After the tragedy, the priest compiled an album of his photographs and memorabilia from the trip, bound it in leather and entrusted it to his friends in the Jesuit Order in Dublin. Estimated to be worth £2 million, the album has now been produced as a book, *Father Browne's Titanic Album*.

There are more than 30 black and white pictures taken on the ship, some grainy and scratched, that show its

Audrey Magee on a book of photographs taken on the fatal voyage by Father Frank Browne



Jack Phillips, the wireless operator on the left, was acclaimed as a hero for sticking to his post when the ship sank after leaving Queenstown



working and leisure life. Others depict the journey on the boat train from London to Southampton and the disembarkation at Cork.

The priest handwrote the captions: "The Titanic's first sunrise", "The children's playground, taken about mid-

day on the saloon deck", "The last glimpse of Capt Smith", and "Mr Farr, electrician, and Mr McGurk, gymnast, both lost".

Father Browne's photographs were widely used in newspapers of the time, and subsequently on anniversaries, and have been reprinted in several books about the liner. This is the first time, however, that they have been collected in a single published volume.

Robert Ballard, leader of the 1985 American expedition that found the Titanic 2½

miles below the surface, wrote the book's foreword. He describes Father Browne's pictures as "poignant reminders" of the vessel he saw under the Atlantic.

Father Browne, a contemporary of James Joyce who referred to him as "Mr

Irish Guards, serving on the front in France and Flanders during the First World War. He was highly commended for his bravery by the French and Belgian authorities and received the MC and Bar from Britain. The Irish Guards in Wellington Barracks, London, have a leather-bound album of his photographs from the war, entitled *Watch on the Rhine*.

His work disappeared into obscurity until 1985, when Eddie O'Donnell, a fellow Jesuit, found 42,000 negatives in a trunk in the archives of the Jesuits' Dublin headquarters. A world tour of the priest's photographs is being prepared by Father O'Donnell, editor of the *Titanic* album. It will start in London in 1999.

"Ten years ago I would have said that the most newsworthy fact about Father Browne was that he sailed on the *Titanic*", Father O'Donnell said. "That is no longer the case. The most interesting fact now is that he is being recognised as one of the world's greatest photographers of all time."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cartoon censured over its violence

The children's cartoon *Reboot* was condemned for violence by the Independent Television Commission after an episode featured a zombie and a villain wielding a chainsaw.

It was a breach of the official programme code to show the episode on ITV as early as 4.40pm, the commission said, upholding complaints from 19 viewers that the violence in the episode *To Mend and Defend* was unacceptable and that the characters, from feature films and computer games, were inappropriate.

Helicopter crash

A pilot and four male passengers were injured when a helicopter crashed into a field in Danbury, Essex. One passenger suffered serious head injuries, the others whiplash injuries. They had taken the trip to celebrate a birthday.

Major note

John Major, the former Prime Minister, helped to launch *The Greatest British Album Of The Century — Britannia*, as a tribute to the Royal Yacht. Each copy sold will bring a donation to King George's Fund For Sailors.

Late opening

Seventeen million people in Britain shop at night, according to a survey carried out by Shell UK, which has 850 24-hour Select shops linked to its garages. The survey also found that five million people like to shop after 10pm.

999 victim

A pensioner died after he was struck by a police car which was answering a 999 call. James Morris, 68, was crossing a road in North Wingfield, Derbyshire. Police said that the car's siren and emergency lights were in use.

Coastguard cuts

The Government is to announce the closure of up to six coastguard stations today. The move has been caused by funding difficulties in the Coastguard Agency, which merges with the Marine Safety Agency next April.

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Portillo ready for a comeback in the Commons

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

MICHAEL PORTILLO, who lost his parliamentary seat in one of the biggest surprises of the general election, has confirmed that he wants to return to the House of Commons. The former Defence Secretary said that he would seek re-election "partly because I am better at politics than I am at anything else".



“If we are not going to be bossed around by Labour, then we have to be heard”

Michael Portillo

In a clear signal that he will try to re-enter the Commons before the next election, he said: "It's also because, if we are not going to be bossed around by our new Government, we have to make ourselves heard in Parliament."

Mr Portillo's defeat in his North London constituency of Enfield Southgate on May 1 ended any immediate prospect of him succeeding John Major as Conservative leader. However, his decision to make clear that he sees his future in politics will provoke fresh speculation about his ambitions.

how totally our image went wrong," he said. "A lot of people came to hate the Tories; you cannot win if people think you are mean-spirited. We are not."

He said that politicians should be aware of how they were perceived. "People follow."

Portillo called for greater tolerance from the Conservatives. "I don't want to alienate anybody by being over-judgmental about their private life," he said.

"The job of politicians is not to pry behind your front door, but rather to prevent people from doing things that harm others."

He said that the Conservatives had seemed to alienate whole groups in society. "I hope teachers will come back to us because we value them, and put standards in education at the top of our agenda. I trust we will attract back the young because we aim to create for them the ladder of opportunity which enables them to achieve their hopes."

Mr Portillo predicted that William Hague's style would find favour with voters. "We need again to speak to people in a language they understand and boil things down to clear statements. William Hague will be good at that."

lowed Mrs Thatcher because she was tough and knew where she was leading. But, over time, her enemies turned her qualities against her; made her steely resolve seem like a heart of granite."

Echoing the speech he made during the Conservative conference in Blackpool, Mr



Harriet Harman and Frank Field are at odds over reforms, but Professor Mead says only toughness works

Expert says Harman's soft line for jobless mothers will never succeed

By Nicholas Wood

HARRIET HARMAN'S softly soft approach to getting single mothers back to work is condemned as unworkable today by one of America's leading welfare experts.

Professor Mead says that the best results in terms of alleviating poverty have been achieved by those that penalise people who will not take a job.

work projects, Professor Mead says that the best results in terms of alleviating poverty have been achieved by those that penalise people who will not take a job.

"very encouraging" results with one in four of those committed to the scheme finding work. Closer analysis suggested the true success rate was one in 20.

Government is urged to scrap the Corporation of London

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

THE Corporation of London should be abolished and its private income used to fund the proposed London authority and elected mayor, a pamphlet published today argues.

Fabian Society, the pro-Labour think-tank, comes from Malcolm Matson, a City entrepreneur whose attempt to join the Court of Aldermen was blocked in 1994. Mr Matson challenged the body's arcane rules in the High Court, where he lost. But the Court of Appeal ruled that the aldermen had to tell Mr Matson why he was not a suitable candidate.

Mr Matson argues: "The Government's plans are doomed to fail unless it is prepared to pursue sweeping reform of a Corporation of London, the undemocratic, unaccountable and largely self-perpetuating body at London's historic and geographic heart. Constitutional reform of the City is a critical test of the new Government's radical credentials."

Among Mr Matson's proposals are the privatisation of the City's four markets to provide a windfall for the Treasury. He also calls for the merger of the City of London Police with the Metropolitan Police, but accepts the need for a specialist force to police the financial and information sectors of

global markets. The City's millions in revenue from capital assets would provide the new London authority with an independent financial base and bring greater accountability to the management and use of the cash, he argues.

He questions the corporate vote planned by the corporation to give companies a say in the running of the Square Mile.

Parliament and the nation have been dazzled by the corporation's ceremonial and charitable record, he suggests. "Few have seen fit to look under the gold coach or the Lord Mayor's ermine to see that this local authority has failed to fulfil the statutory obligation placed on it by Edward III to chart a course 'with good faith and reason' which is 'profitable to the people'."

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Beach battle puts a town at bay

Richard Duce
on a challenge to
businessman who
hopes an ancient
ownership right
will be his oyster

AS A fresh November wind gusts off the North Sea towards one of Britain's best-known coastal restaurants, its owner is at the centre of a rising legal storm over his claim to his own stretch of the coast.

Barry Green, 62, says he has historic legal rights to register the 1½ miles of shingle beach as his property, running to the left and right of the Egon Ronay-listed Royal Native Oyster Stores at Whitstable, Kent. He has run into vociferous opposition from councillors who have engaged lawyers to try to disprove the claim.

Mr Green already owns the only cinema in Whitstable and is opening a new hotel. He runs holiday lets in converted fishermen's huts, holds the majority stake in the Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company and still operates his original core business of selling ceramic tiles.

The battle for the beach has led to allegations that he will deprive locals of access to a natural amenity and will put up barbed wire to keep them away. An emergency debate has already been held by Canterbury City Council. Yesterday Mr Green was happy to give assurances that he had no plans to shut off the beach, saying that any development would be limited to the construction of ramps for the revival of oyster beds. His ownership claim stretches 200 metres out into the bay.

Geoffrey Pike, a local historian, says: "There is not the slightest doubt that Mr Green owns the beach, but questions do arise for townsfolk on how it will affect their rights of access to the beach."

"Access has been a traditional part of Whitstable life and it also raises concern about whether this will give Mr Green the right to develop on the beach."

Mr Green insists that laying right to title of the Manor, and



Julia Seath, who wants a written assurance that residents will have access to the beach in perpetuity. She said: "It has stirred up bad feeling"

Foreshore of Whitstable with the Land Registry is merely a formality to clear up future ownership. It encompasses offshore oyster beds.

The Romans first brought oyster farming to Whitstable, and the rights to fish off the town rested with the Lord of the Manor until the late 18th century. According to Mr Pike, it was Lord Bolingbroke who fell on hard times in 1793 and sold the oyster grounds and beach to the highwater mark to the Free Fishers and Dredgers of Whitstable, who eventually formed the Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company.

In 1869 the company bought the beach fronting the town from Wynn Ellis, a subsequent Lord of the Manor. By the turn of the century, Whitstable was producing 20 million native oysters a year, but overfishing led to a huge decline. The company

buildings, now the restaurant, were derelict when Mr Green bought a 75 per cent stake 23 years ago. The restaurant business alone now has an annual turnover close to £1 million.

Mr Green and his son, Richard, 32, a director of the company, say their ambition is to reintroduce oysters to their beds. At present, they buy them from a neighbouring firm.

Although the beach is probably worth a small fortune and one of very few in private hands, we would never consider selling the beach," Mr Green said. "We are trying to keep things as they always were. There has been oyster farming here for thousands of years. The company is tied in with the beach. We are registering the land because of the beds. We need control over both."

"I don't feel we have any-

thing to fight. We have put our case to the Land Registry, and so far there are no other valid claims."

"It is a joke to suggest that I am going to bring in razorwire to keep people out. I can give an assurance that enjoyment of the beach will never be restricted."

Concern about the future of the beach for the 30,000 population of Whitstable is led by a Labour councillor, Julia Seath, who tabled an emergency council motion and is seeking a written assurance that access rights will be granted in perpetuity.

She said: "I am concerned about the implications of this for the townspeople. I am looking for an assurance that, at some future point in time, access will not be denied or changing policies introduced."

"That would be a grave threat to the civil liberties of the people in the town. It has

stirred up a lot of bad feeling in the town. It is a small place where people often fall out with each other, but when threatened by one individual they will stand together."

Janet Franklin, senior solicitor with Canterbury City Council, said: "We are trying to protect the rights of the public. It is too early to say if Mr Green has a legitimate claim, but we have a duty to object where the public rights are of overriding interest."

Two years ago, Mr Green received £12,000 grant aid towards the £100,000 conversion costs of the fishermen's huts, but failed to let them to local artisans as originally intended.

He now lets them to holidaymakers at £75 a night. Change-of-use planning permission has still to be granted. They were featured earlier this week on the BBC Holiday programme.



Green: says he would never sell the beach

Railtrack will let hire bikes take the strain

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL managers are preparing to lure commuters away from their cars with rented bicycles. Railtrack directors are anxious to seize on the increasing enthusiasm for cycling by setting up bicycle hire shops at the main railway stations.

The company has submitted plans to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, outlining proposals to provide bicycles at stations in London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham.

The move would enable commuters to hire a bicycle for the day and return it in the evening. The scheme would follow the example of countries such as The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, where bicycle hire has become a routine part of city transport. In Germany, thousands of cyclists pick up a bicycle at one

cyclists. Peter Gazey, project manager of Bikerail, said: "We are a long way behind other countries. There are signs that we have got cycling into the institutional process. But it is a long way from where we were five years ago and we know that train operators are keen to have hire facilities, if only to avoid bicycles on trains."

Mr Gazey said that it was unlikely that a retail outlet could survive on bicycle hire alone, but might include sales of cycling accessories as well as offering servicing for commuters' bicycles. Some rail companies, led by Anglia Railways and Great Western, have set up bicycle racks on trains but most of the 25 train operators make no provision for cyclists.

A Railtrack spokeswoman said that the company would examine the options in detail in the new year before deciding which stations would lead the hire project. "We want to show that we will support the Government in its plans to have an integrated transport system and to reduce congestion in city centres."

Operators are keen to have hire facilities, if only to avoid bikes on trains

Cycling groups claim that it is difficult to take bicycles on trains because most operators have abandoned guards' vans. They have also complained to Railtrack about poor storage facilities at some mainline stations and the lack of adequate signs for racks.

If the scheme proves successful, cycling pressure groups hope similar plans will be introduced at stations serving coastal towns and beauty spots. Hire schemes have been set up in Bath and Moreton-in-Marsh, in the Cotswolds, but have not been backed by rail companies.

The move towards bicycle hire follows a study prepared for Railtrack by Bikerail, an organisation aiming to promote better rail facilities to

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Museum reunites Handel with his librettist

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MUSEUM being founded in memory of the composer George Frideric Handel has acquired an important portrait of the man who wrote the libretto to *Messiah*.

Thomas Hudson's imposing portrayal of Charles Jennens (1700-73) will be displayed, alongside an extraordinary collection of Handel manuscripts and memorabilia that was acquired for the nation in September, at the house in Brook Street, West London, where Handel lived for 36 years until his death in 1759.

It was bought this week at Sotheby's. Half the £13,800 price was raised from private

donations; the rest came from the National Art Collections Fund, which, with 80,000 members, is Britain's largest art charity.

Stanley Sadie, president of the Handel House Trust, described Jennens as the most important of Handel's artistic collaborators. "It was Jennens who conceived the idea of an oratorio on the theme of the

Messiah and planned the libretto, providing what a contemporary described as 'the most elevated, majestic, and moving Words'."

Apart from *Messiah* of 1741, Jennens also wrote, among others, librettos to Handel's oratorios *Saul* and *Belshazzar*. He became so renowned for his extravagant lifestyle that he was nicknamed

Solyman the Magnificent. Despite their friendship, however, Jennens displayed a certain arrogance. Dr Sadie noted how he felt "Handel's music failed to do justice to his words, saying 'I shall put no more Sacred Words into his hands, to be thus abused', although he admitted that 'Tis after all, in the main, a fine Composition'."

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Saddam given warning over Scud offensive

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein's ambition to have missiles tipped with nuclear, chemical or biological warheads poses "a great danger to the world", Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said yesterday.

Before leaving London for Washington, he refused to say what action he might take if Saddam fired Scud ballistic missiles at Israel. "I'd rather not speculate on possibilities," he said in an interview on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*. However, Israeli officials have made clear that if Saddam fired missiles with chemical or biological warheads at cities in Israel, there would be no hesitation in responding from

NETANYAHU

its stock of weapons of mass destruction.

During the Gulf War, Israel agreed to hold back from retaliatory strikes after Scuds were fired on Tel Aviv, because of the importance of maintaining the Arab coalition against Iraq. The Iraqi leader had hoped to provoke Israel into responding, and thus destroy the Arab alliance built up by the United States.

An Israeli official said yesterday: "Today that Arab alliance against Saddam doesn't exist, so the same argument no longer applies." Israel has an awesome inventory of weapons it could unleash against Iraq. An Iraqi official admitted recently that during the Gulf War it was Israel's implied threat to use nuclear weapons — not America's warning of retribution — that stopped Saddam from launching Scuds armed with chemical and biological warheads against Tel Aviv.

His deadly warheads were ready but were never launched. The Scuds fired towards Tel Aviv in 1991 carried high-explosive warheads but many disintegrated as they approached their target because of faulty design work by Iraqi engineers who had converted the Russian-made Scuds into longer-range al-Hussein missiles.

Last week, Israeli officials were reported to have given a warning that Israel would respond to an Iraqi chemical or biological attack with a neutron bomb, the enhanced-radiation weapon that some countries developed in the 1970s. A tactical weapon which produces a huge wave of neutron and gamma radiation but a reduced blast effect, it can be carried in a Lance missile system or delivered by howitzer or aircraft. Although this was seen as part of the rhetoric to deter Saddam, it is presumed Israel has a number of neutron bombs.

It is also suspected of having developed up to 100 nuclear warheads, and has the delivery systems for launching a nuclear attack. The Jericho 1 single-warhead ballistic missile, with a range of more than 300 miles, and the Jericho 2, with a range of more than 900 miles, are both capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

The Israeli Air Force's F4 Phantoms are nuclear-capable, and its F15s and F16s are also likely to be capable of carrying nuclear bombs. Israel, helped by the US, have been developing the Arrow anti-ballistic missile system, but it is not yet operational. A number of its flight tests have failed, although the system is expected to be in service within the next few years.



An eight-year-old Israeli girl is fitted with a gas mask at a distribution centre in Jerusalem as the nation prepares for possible attack from Iraq.

Israelis prepare for attack

writes from Jerusalem). David Zucker, chairman of an Israeli parliamentary sub-committee on security affairs, said a lack of money meant that about 10 per cent of the population would be without adequate gas masks. Israeli military officials estimated that some 400,000 people had faulty gas masks that

needed to be replaced. Mr Zucker said that a further £14 million was required to meet the shortfall in funding. Otherwise, until the end of 1998, there would be a lack of kits — specially designed for infants and men with beards. He said the shortage was "due to a lack of political foresight and the non-

allocation of adequate sums of money".

During the Gulf War, more than 40 Iraqi Scud missiles were launched at Israel. Only one man died, of a heart attack, but there was extensive property damage as Israel bowed to American pressure not to retaliate. Israelis lived for weeks in sealed areas, wearing gas masks, only to discover that their equipment then was also defective.

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Iraq puts its faith in veteran missile

THE only weapon in Iraq's armoury capable of hitting an American U2 spy plane is the Russian-made Sa2 Guideline surface-to-air missile, according to US Defence Department officials (Michael Evans writes). First put into production in about 1956 and operational with Soviet armed forces in 1958, it has been one of the most widely used missile systems in the world. The Russians have sold it to more than 20 countries.

It was fired by the Soviet Union when it brought down the U2 flown by the US Air Force pilot Gary Powers in 1960. Two Sa2s were fired at

the aircraft as it flew over Soviet territory. One hit the aircraft and the other exploded behind it.

The Sa2 was then new and it has since been modified and improved. However, it is obsolescent and modern aircraft with electronic counter-measure systems should have little difficulty avoiding it. "a flying telegraph pole".

The U2s on patrol over Iraq are protected at a lower altitude by support aircraft including electronic counter-measure planes which would be able to jam the Sa2's radio guidance system.

Kuwait joins chorus against military strikes

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN MOSCOW

COALITION

AMERICAN attempts to rally support for possible military strikes against Iraq suffered a significant setback yesterday when Kuwait declared it would oppose the use of force.

The tiny oil-rich emirate has been the staunchest supporter of American policy on Iraq since the Gulf War and still relies on US muscle for its survival. Its call for moderation came as Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, began consultations with Washington's allies in the Gulf and Iraq announced its own diplomatic offensive to win Arab support.

"Any military attack would

harm the Iraqi people and neighbours," Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, said after meeting President Mubarak of Egypt in Cairo. The Kuwaiti Cabinet also issued a statement urging a diplomatic solution, echoing calls from Egypt, Syria, Bahrain and other key Arab components of the Gulf War alliance.

However, there was also strong criticism of Iraq for triggering the crisis over weapons inspections. "We discussed Iraqi and American threats, and not threats from one side," said Sheikh al-Sabah, who ruled out reconciliation with Baghdad while President Saddam Hussein was in power.

A Gulf diplomat said: "The Kuwaitis are still terrified of Saddam and don't want to back military action if it doesn't get rid of him. After all, they have to live next to Iraq. If the Americans can convince Kuwait they have a real strategy to topple Saddam, I think they'd give Washington the support it wants."

Iraq accused the United States of pretending to give diplomacy a chance while it used the time to complete military preparations, but Baghdad's own diplomatic efforts to defuse the crisis were accompanied by fiery rhetoric.

It repeated threats to shoot down American U2 spy planes, and for the first time raised the spectre of a terrorist backlash against British and US interests in the Middle East.

An editorial in Saturday's *Babel*, an influential newspaper owned by Saddam's eldest son, Uday, said: "American and British interests, embassies and naval ships in the Arab region should be the targets of military operations and commando attacks by Arab political forces."

Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, is today due to begin touring North African countries in an attempt to win Arab support for Baghdad's defiant stand. Diplomats representing moderate Arab countries complained that recent comments by President Clinton had supported Baghdad's claim that Washington was using the issue of weapons inspections to topple Saddam and replace him with a "US-sponsored regime". Mr Clinton said on Friday that by expelling American weapons inspectors last week, Saddam had ensured sanctions would remain in place as long as he was in power.

However, there was growing speculation in the Middle East that Washington may offer to improve the terms of a year-old deal whereby Baghdad is allowed to sell limited amounts of oil to buy food and other humanitarian supplies.

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Stand-off provoked 'to protect germ-war stockpile'

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON
AND JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE showdown with President Saddam Hussein was provoked when it dawned on the Iraqi leader that he could no longer hoodwink United Nations weapons inspectors over his secret stockpiles of germ warfare agents.

American and UN officials said yesterday that the inspectors had been closing in on sites where they expected to uncover the heart of Saddam's biological weapons programme, including evidence of refrigerated lorries used to move supplies of the lethal anthrax bacteria, and details of tests on live animals.

Some inspectors suspect that Iraq may even have conducted tests on prisoners captured during the Iran-Iraq war and on Kurdish dissidents. Rumours about human guinea-pigs have never been confirmed, but two years ago inspectors did obtain videotapes of the death throes of dogs, monkeys and other animals infected with anthrax spores and botulinum toxins.

As the inspectors tightened their noose, they were also threatening to expose the role of Saddam's Special Republican Guards in controlling the sites, logistics and testing of biological warfare research under the supervision of his son, Qusay.

The current crisis began two days after a stern letter to the Iraqi Government on October 27 by Richard Butler, head of the UN inspection teams. It came after three rebuffs during September and October of inspectors trying to gain access to premises controlled by the Republican Guards

WEAPONS

and to a building known as the chemical defence headquarters. Mr Butler's letter proposed a Baghdad meeting on November 9 and 10 at which he would be accompanied by, among others, his chief biological weapons investigator, Dick Spertzel, a retired US military officer and acknowledged expert on germ warfare.

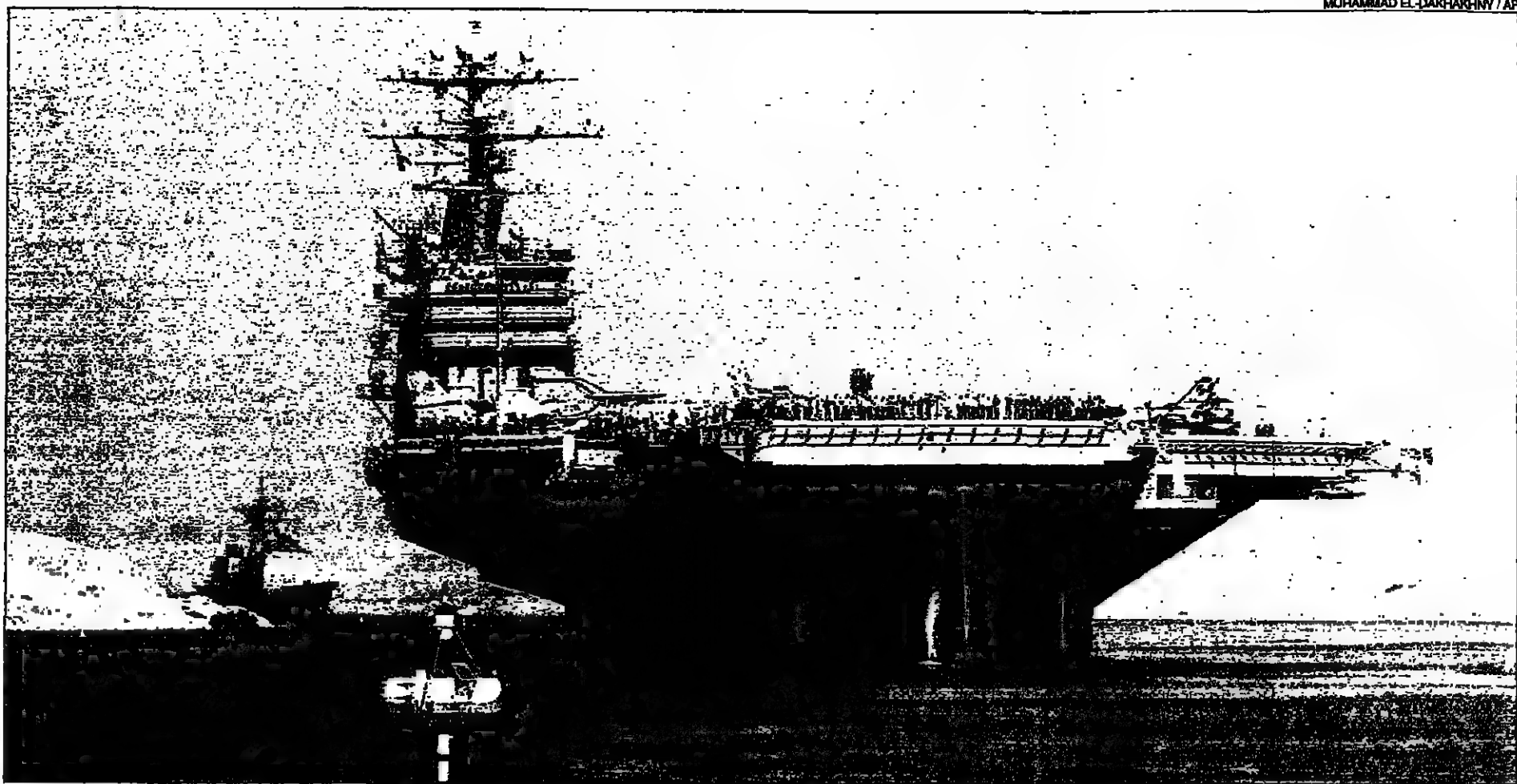
The meeting, Mr Butler wrote, should focus on how Iraq intended to proceed on providing information about biological weapons. He also wanted an understanding that inspectors could visit sensitive sites, and assurances on how they would be treated there.

These demands apparently confirmed for Saddam's inner circle that their claim to have made a "full, final and complete declaration" about biological weapons had been rejected as preposterous.

In addition to making them come clean about their prized biological arsenal, Mr Butler wanted more information on Iraq's missile warheads and its stocks of two chemical warfare agents — VX nerve gas and mustard gas.

Iraq is keeping its germ-warfare data secret after losing the bulk of its chemical weapons and nuclear programmes to the inspectors.

□ Moscow intervenes: Russia is trying to rein in the Special Commission responsible for dismantling Iraq by transforming its advisory board of technical experts into a political oversight body. At Russia's request, the UN Security Council has recommended that Uncom reconvene a meeting of its 21 commissioners to discuss the Iraqi confrontation.



The aircraft carrier USS George Washington, above, in the Suez Canal en route to the Gulf yesterday. The USS Annapolis nuclear submarine, below, is in her escort



Air power stepped up at Incirlik

Incirlik Air Base: Washington is boosting its fighting presence here in southern Turkey, one of Nato's most sophisticated air bases, which was extensively used for bombing sorties during the Gulf War (Andrew Finkel writes).

But Turkey denied that it had given permission for the base to be used for fresh offensive action. Ismet Sevgin, the Turkish Defence Minister, said yesterday that permission would need the consent of the Turkish parliament. He also

TURKEY

denied that F117 Stealth bombers had been sent to Incirlik.

The base is currently used to patrol the northern Iraq no-fly zone, and any increase in the intensity of operations must raise the possibility of a direct confrontation with Iraqi fighters violating the zone, which they increasingly do.

Iraqis in the zone normally turn tail as soon as they are "lit" by radar beams. "If they are looking for a confrontation" now, that's what they'll get," a US Embassy spokesman said.

Clinton cites Tokyo attack as warning

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

GAS FEARS

THE crisis with Iraq is not a replay of the Gulf War but a battle against organised forces of destruction, President Clinton said yesterday.

Citing the March 1995 sarin nerve-gas attack on the Tokyo underground as an omen, he said: "Think about it in terms of the innocent Japanese who died in the subway and how important it is for every responsible government in the world to do everything possible not to let big stores of chemical or biological weapons fall into the wrong hands."

Eleven commuters died when the Aum Shinrikyo sect released the gas. By drawing the comparison, Mr Clinton was raising the alarm that rogue regimes could place lethal weapons in the hands of terrorists and spies. William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, held up a 5lb bag of sugar on US television. Just such a bag filled with anthrax bacteria could kill half Washington's population of 600,000 if it were spread over the city, he said.

Mr Clinton won support for his search for a diplomatic solution in telephone calls to Tony Blair, Presi-

dent Yeltsin and President Chirac of France. Britain has joined America in gearing up for possible military action, and Mr Clinton and the Prime Minister discussed diplomatic measures and the need to maintain unity in the UN Security Council.

Russia has agreed to use its special relationship with Iraq to try to find a peaceful solution. The Americans have made a similar appeal to the French, but whether Paris agreed is "less clear" said an official with Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, who is in the Middle East. Yesterday she added extra stops to her schedule — Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. She was seeking to stiffen resolve and remind them of America's need to use bases in their countries should there be armed conflict.

The Saudis are likely to collaborate if they are convinced that Saddam is determined to rebuild and expand his capacity to manufacture weapons of terror. Bahrain has a large US naval air station and is not expected to raise objections should diplomatic efforts fail.

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China lets dissident go to US

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN BEIJING

CHINA'S leading pro-democracy activist, Wei Jingsheng, a 47-year-old electrician twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, was released from jail at the weekend and flown yesterday to the United States in what diplomats saw as a surprise concession to American pressure on Beijing's human rights record.

That pressure came most notably during the recent visit of President Jiang Zemin to the US, where he held talks with President Clinton. The two leaders disagreed publicly on human rights, most significantly on the violent suppression and massacre of pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square in June 1989. Xinhua,

China's official news agency, said that Mr Wei had been released on "medical parole".

Mr Wei had always said that he would not seek exile but he was serving a 14-year sentence during which he had allegedly suffered harassment, including beatings from criminal cellmates. Human rights sources claimed that the ill-treatment had been on the orders of senior prison officials. Family members said that his decision to go indicated the parlous state of his health. On his arrival in Detroit yesterday he was taken directly to hospital.

After a meeting yesterday with some of his family, including a brother, at Beijing's international airport, where there was high security, Mr Wei boarded a Northwest

Airlines flight for Detroit. He was accompanied by a US diplomat and a Chinese judicial official. His sister, who lives in Boston, said she would join him to help to "look after him".

His brother, Wei Xiaotao, told reporters later: "My brother is still in high spirits. He hopes to come back one day to China. He is not the kind of person to change his ideals."

Diplomats said the release of Mr Wei Jingsheng, who has been suffering from heart trouble and high blood pressure, and has lost most of his teeth, was "a positive but not conclusive sign of willingness of Beijing to change".

Foreign diplomats said that Mr Wei might become irrelevant in exile. Some even say that this may be what the US Government, and certainly

Beijing, want. Others hope that China will soon release other jailed pro-democracy activists such as Wang Dan, one of the chief student leaders during the 1989 Tiananmen demonstrations. His parents say that he also needs medical treatment.

Mr Wei first aroused the ire of the authorities in the late 1970s when he called on Deng Xiaoping, the late reforming leader, to bring in the "fifth modernisation" — democracy — to complement free-market reforms in the economy.

He was one of the most prominent activists during the pro-democracy wall campaign of the 1970s, publicly writing posters critical of the Chinese leadership. He had served one 14-year jail term and was into his second, imposed essentially for a

meeting with a senior human rights official of the US Administration in 1994, although Beijing said the penalty was for trying to overthrow the Government.

American officials, who clearly hope Mr Wei's release will help to relax Sino-American tensions, said that in exile Mr Wei could be much less of a force for change in China than he was in a labour camp. One foreign envoy suggested, "Pretty soon, he may cease to be the flavour of the month."

China has observed that other freed dissidents, once overseas, become less and less relevant. Because they get no publicity in the Chinese press — they are treated as non-persons — few Chinese know much about them or what they stand for.

Former pop star beats the drum for Islam

FROM TOM WALKER
IN SARAJEVO

THE man looking every inch a Muslim cleric returned to centre stage, pulled by the frantic crowd's exhortations. "Who is the greatest?" he asked them. "Allah is the greatest," the thousands cried.

After an absence of 18 years, Yusuf Islam, formerly the pop star known as Cat Stevens, was back in the public gaze. On Saturday night, in Sarajevo's Skenderija centre, the one-time hippy whose plaintive melodies were a leitmotif of the early 1970s, showed Bosnia his new self.

With nothing more than five dervishes banging drums for accompaniment, he performed three songs — two in English, one in Arabic — before a dramatic, some would say rabble-rousing, encore.

Born Steven Geophiliou, the son of a Greek Cypriot restaurant owner and a Swedish mother, the singer, now 48, said he wants to "see how music can play a part in shaping Islam in Europe". He has spent much of the past two decades campaigning for Islamic causes such as Kashmir, and running a school in Brondesbury, in the North London borough of Brent, but



Islam, formerly Cat Stevens, in Sarajevo, sings songs he wrote after being inspired by Bosnian Muslim folk music

hearing Bosnian folk melodies inspired a return to his musical roots.

Relaxing in the nearby Hotel Bosnia before the concert, Islam was happy to talk to television crews and journalists about his faith and the new unadorned music with which he praises God, but the past was largely off-limits. A minder in the lift on the way up to his room suggested, for example, that Yusuf's apparent support for the fatwa

against Salman Rushdie should not be mentioned.

Earlier in the day Islam had a meeting with President Alija Izetbegovic — "an amazing man, he came out of jail to become President, what a story." Did he regret a past from which he cannot hide? "As Muslims we accept what God has written," said Islam. "Some of the songs have more meaning now than when I wrote them."

Under pressure, he admitted

still singing hits such as *Morning Has Broken* to his youngest daughter, but that it would be "too much" to ever sing them in public again. Saturday's songs, entitled *Little Ones and Mother, Father, Sister, Brother*, bore the simplicity of the Cat Stevens of old, but were strictly Islamic in content.

Islam's concert attracted little publicity yet still managed to pack Skenderija to the rafters with a cross-section of

Bosnian society. From ministers to soldiers to Srebrenica refugees, the faithful turned up to a deeply Islamic event that many said confirmed a new cultural identity. Few commented on the irony that Yusuf was born into the same faith as the Bosnian Serbs just 20 minutes up the road.

As old men in Muslim berets, veiled women and soldiers in fatigues drifted away, Islam prepared for the next concert, in Turkey.

Swiss put English top of the class

FROM PETER CAPELLA
IN GENEVA

A MAJORITY of Swiss people want their children to learn English as a second language instead of another of Switzerland's four other national tongues, according to an opinion poll.

Sixty per cent of German-speaking Swiss would like English to be taught at school before French, while 57 per cent of French-speakers had a similar preference for English as a second language over German, the survey in the weekly *Facts* indicated.

Language teaching is regarded as a key binding agent that overcomes the social tensions inherent in Switzerland's linguistic diversity. Sixty-four per cent of the country's seven million inhabitants live in German-speaking areas, 19 per cent in the French-speaking west and 7.6 per cent in Italian areas in the south. Romansh is spoken by only about 40,000 people. The three main languages are granted equal official status in the Constitution.

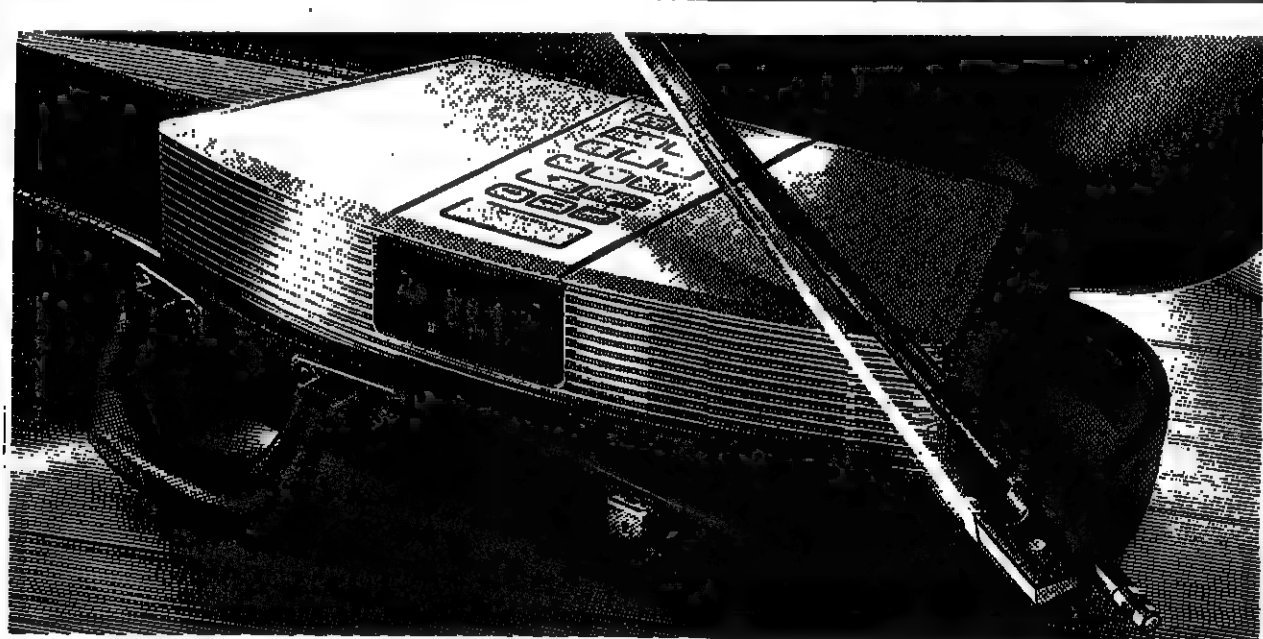
The survey was published as education chiefs sought to defend the teaching of French, German or Italian as a second language throughout Switzerland. Regional authorities in Zurich are examining a project that would break away from national practice by introducing English early in primary school by 2000.

Cash crisis threatens UN

New York: The future of the United Nations has been put in jeopardy by the collapse in the US Congress of a compromise on funding the organisation (James Bone writes).

As diplomats were gearing up last week to meet the threat from President Saddam Hussein over arms inspections, Congress dropped legislation

on UN funding because of an unrelated dispute between the Republican majority and the Clinton Administration over abortion. The UN faces financial ruin next year because of the shortfall: Washington, which pays 25 per cent of the body's budget, owes \$1.3 billion (\$812 million), or 60 per cent of its unpaid dues.



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Stalinist Marchais dies at 77 in Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

GEORGES MARCHAIS, the veteran Stalinist who ran the French Communist Party for two decades, died yesterday in a Paris hospital at the age of 77.

Marchais, born the year the Communist Party was founded, stuck to his hardline views against the tide of history, and never deviated from the belief that Communist rule had been "globally positive".

Beetle-browed, aggressive and a master in the art of political survival, Marchais was elected secretary-general of the party in 1972 and finally stepped down in 1994, handing over leadership to the more liberal Robert Hue.

Colleagues yesterday paid tribute to one of the key figures of postwar French politics, but Marchais will be remembered principally as an old-fashioned and rigid Soviet-style leader, who presided over the steady decline of his party.

He played down human rights abuses in the Soviet Union, and even his most chronic misjudgments — such as supporting the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia — were dismissed as "errors of analysis".

Obituary, page 25

Death of abused 'Cinderella', 9, stains New York

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN ANGUISHED New York is searching its civic soul after a nine-year-old girl was found dead at her Bronx home, having succumbed to advanced gangrene, malnutrition, numerous cigarette burns and a badly fractured skull. She had missed school for more than two months. Such absences should trigger a child abuse alert — but she slipped through the net.

Sabrina Green lived with her sister, 32, and the latter's boyfriend. Both have been arrested and charged with manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide and endangering the welfare of a child.

At a memorial service yesterday, Ronald Kelly, her father — a methadone addict who had not seen Sabrina since she was five — lashed out at the city's educational and childcare authorities, saying: "All I can see are her little hands reaching out and no one to help her."

Sabrina was found dead last week after an anonymous caller alerted the ambulance service to "an unconscious child" at the Edenwald public housing estate. The rescue services found her body bound to a bed and covered in festering sores. Untreated burns covered her face and hands. Gangrene, caused by

the loss of her right thumb, had blackened her right arm. She was emaciated, and her skull had a fracture caused by a blunt instrument.

The discovery led to an outcry in the press, which focused on Sabrina having missed school since early September. It is common practice to treat such chronic absence as an indicator of possible child abuse, yet there was no response from her school.

Under New York city law, if a pupil is absent for ten consecutive days school authorities must notify the Administration for Children's Services. That welfare body is then obliged to make a mandatory home visit. No one did in this case.

Authorities at Sabrina's school now claim that a telephone call was made, and that Yvette Green, her sister, said that the child was in hospital. Yet there is no note of a call, nor even of a follow-up. New York newspapers said that Sabrina was often marked present in class when she was absent.

Rudy Crew, New York's Schools Chancellor, has conceded that the "system failed Sabrina Green". He said: "I am going to be very forthright. I don't think the system handled this very well. I am not

into forgiveness. I want to know who did what, when and where." Investigations are now focused on Ms Green, a mother of ten children aged from three to 17, and her unemployed boyfriend. Reports have emerged of how Ms Green treated Sabrina as a "Cinderella", starving her, punishing her, locking her up and beating her.

Sabrina was born with traces of crack in her system to an drug-addict mother, who died in 1991. She was placed in the care of a friend of her mother, who treated her well and enrolled her at a private school before dying in 1996. Then a family court entrusted the vivacious and intelligent pupil to Ms Green, who moved her to a dilapidated school. After that, Sabrina's condition apparently worsened rapidly.

Police "suicide": A Long Island teenager with gambling debts committed "suicide by cop" yesterday — confronting two policemen with a toy gun, causing them to open fire. A note in a car belonging to Moshe Pergament, 19, the son of a wealthy property developer, said: "I'm sorry to get you involved. I just wanted to die." He owed \$6,000 (£3,500), mostly to bookmakers.



Kelly Flinn in her air force days before she was forced to resign over a love affair

Britain begins battle for euro influence

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Government's drive to exert British leadership in the European Union will be tested today when Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, bids in the face of French and German opposition for a seat at the planned high table of countries taking part in monetary union.

As a non-participant when the single currency is launched, Britain will have no voice in the planned euro council, a body intended to coordinate policies among the countries inside the proposed currency zone.

The future finance ministers' forum is supposed to be informal, but Britain and the other likely non-members, Greece, Sweden and Denmark, are worried that EU power inevitably will gravitate to it, leaving the law-making Ecofin council of all 15 members an empty shell.

At the first debate on the new body in Brussels today, Mr Brown is expected to make the case for Britain to have an observer's seat. But Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, has ruled out the idea and German officials say they can see no reason for including non-members, a view shared by The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. "If you want to be at the table, then join the euro club," a senior Dutch official said.

Britain is also working to clip the wings of the future council, which the French are projecting as a body with global clout, along the lines of the G7 group of leading industrialised nations. In this, Britain can exploit misgivings in Germany, the Commission and the future European Central Bank, which are all worried that the council could inject politics into the management of the euro.

The central bank, which will be formed in the middle of next year after the choice of participants in the new currency, is the subject of intense Franco-German skirmishing. President Chirac is pressing a French candidate for its presidency against the German-backed favourite. Germany has also hinted at favouring a reserved seat for Britain on the bank's six-member directorate, but France and most other states flatly oppose the idea, saying that Britain must wait until it decides to embrace the euro.

Limiting the loss of influence from Britain's decision to stay out of Europe's paramount project is a priority for the Government as it prepares to take over the six-month EU presidency in January.

Pilot in sex scandal considered suicide

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

KELLY FLINN, the former Air Force pilot who was the first woman to fly a B52, considered suicide before she was forced to resign over her affair with a married civilian.

Ms Flinn was an enraged and stricken woman underneath the composed exterior she displayed in public during her ordeal last May, according to excerpts from her book, *Proud to Be*, appearing in this week's *Newsweek*.

Ms Flinn describes herself breaking down and going on a destructive rampage under pressure from her own lawyers and family to leave the service with a less than honourable discharge. Failing that, they warned her, she faced a court martial and quite possibly a prison sentence for adultery, lying and disobeying orders.

"I climbed into my Jeep and drove back to my house in a rage," Ms Flinn writes. "I kicked open the door and

marched into the living room. There were framed pictures of my pilot training, my framed diploma from the Air Force Academy, some awards I'd received. I pulled each one of them off the walls."

When family members came to talk to her, she sank into a chair and curled up in a fetal position, clutching a stuffed elephant. "There was broken glass everywhere. My face was swollen with crying. I had blood on my hands... Finally, when I realised no one would ever understand my feelings, my pain, my frustrations, I screamed at the top of my lungs, 'I resign! Just get out of my house!'"

She never attempted suicide, "but I thought about it hard. I imagined what my suicide note would say and to whom I'd send it. I knew where a gun was hidden in a friend's house. I imagined... getting it." In the long term, she says, her resignation was the right decision.

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Can bodies be built?

BUILDING new bodies, bit by bit, is a tempting target for developmental biologists. Human cells grown in culture might have many uses, from treating degenerative brain diseases to replacing bone marrow — even, ultimately, to growing entire organs such as livers for transplanting into patients. The idea is closer than most people realise.

Professor John Gearhart of Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University told a conference earlier this year that he and Dr Michael Shambloott had discovered how to culture human embryonic stem (ES) cells. These are found in the early embryo and have the capacity to become anything from bone to muscle to nerve. It had been done before for mice, cows, rabbits and sheep, but this was the first time human ES cells had been successfully cultured. The biologists kept them alive for seven months.

They started with material from aborted fetuses five to seven weeks old, extracting cells and keeping them from differentiating into organs by adding materials called cytokines, which control the development process. Eventually, the cells begin to specialise, forming several types of tissue. To find out what these tissues are, the scientists are transplanting the cells into mice whose immune system has been turned off so they cannot reject the transplant. The cells are expected to develop into a range of tissues: other scientists working with monkeys have produced muscle, cartilage, bone, teeth and hair, the American magazine *The Scientist* reports.

The first application of techniques like these is likely to be in treating diseases such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's. Swedish research has shown that embryonic cells taken from foetuses can alleviate Parkinson's symptoms, but the ethical dimension has always loomed large, trading in aborted foetuses is distasteful. Establishing a culture from a single foetus, then maintaining it for a long period of time, would prove more acceptable.

That is what a company set up by scientists from the Institute of Psychiatry in London plans to do. ReNeuron, founded by Professor Jeffrey Gray, Dr John Sinden and Dr Helen Hodges, will grow foetal brain stem cells in culture, and make them available to neurosurgeons for implanting into patients' brains. Experiments with rodents have shown that the cells migrate to areas of damage in the brain and there adopt the form of the dead cells, restoring function and memory.

The brain is a soft target because it does not reject foreign tissue. For transplants into other parts of a body, it would be necessary either to tailor the cells to match the recipient or, more usefully, to create a universal cell line that anybody would accept.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

A great nose for grapes only

WINE tasters spend their lives learning to distinguish subtle differences in bouquet and flavour. But tests in Sweden reveal that they are only average at detecting odours they do not often experience.

Mats Bende, an ear, nose and throat specialist from Central Hospital in Skövde, and a psychologist, Steven Nordin, of the University of Umeå, asked 22 professional wine tasters to smell a non-wine odour, butanol, in various dilutions to measure their threshold of detection.

Comparison with non-experts showed no significant difference. Then they were asked whether a series of solutions had recognisable odours. The wine tasters could detect and name odours found in wine at levels three times more dilute than untrained volunteers.

This included vanilla, lemon, apple, violet, orange, vinegar, aniseed and tar. But faced with the non-wine scents of almond, cinnamon and ammonia, they were no better than the controls, the Swedish team writes in *Physiology and Behaviour*.



Dominant-handedness is found in no primates apart from human beings. The only other species that shares this trait is the parrot, which favours left-footedness

A big hand in evolution

Right-handers have been dominant for 5,000 years, but just how such a bias came about remains a mystery. Anjana Ahuja reports

In ancient times, left-handedness was equated with godlessness; today it is more often equated with genius or exceptional talent. Throughout the ages, left-handers have been regarded with suspicion or reverence. Certain cultures still force children "at risk" of developing left-handedness to use their other hand.

Science has not yet come up with a reason for such a marked imbalance in handedness among human beings. Despite more than half a century of research, experts are still quibbling over how to disentangle the complex web of genes, culture and environment in which the solution to this riddle must lie.

Amid the confusion, a psychologist, Michael Corballis of Auckland University, has

80 per cent likely to be right-handed. One sticking point is that even though identical twins share identical genes, there seems to be little correlation on handedness.

To complicate matters further, handedness seems to be imperfectly allied to another important characteristic: the site of language in the brain. Nine out of ten right-handers use the left part of the brain for processing language; only seven out of ten left-handers use the left hemisphere.

How does this lateral bias in both hand and brain come about? One well-received model, developed by Chris McManus, Professor of Psychology at University College London, postulates a handedness gene that exists in two different versions, or alleles. The D allele represents dexterity (right-handedness), and the C allele represents chance. According to the model, your handedness is cast according to the

It is that complexity which makes people special

permutation you inherit. And there are only three such permutations: DD, CD and CC. DD pairings are always right-handed. CD pairings are 75 per cent likely to be right-handed. CC equates to a 50 per cent chance of being right or left-handed. However, despite fitting the observations well, the model does not explain why or how this handedness could have evolved.

In a paper published in the latest issue of *Psychological Review*, Dr Corballis has drawn together decades of research in an effort to fill in the gaps. He suggests that at some point during the evolution of hominids (a class of primates that includes humans and great apes), the D allele suddenly appeared, possibly as a genetic mutation in one individual. Its main effect

was to introduce an asymmetry or bias in the brain that allowed the development of toolmaking and language — both uniquely human traits — to develop more rapidly than before. And one of the spin-offs was to bias human beings in favour of right-handedness.

Scientists know by perusing airworks through the ages that the proportion of left-handed humans has been constant for 5,000 years. Two alleles of one gene can maintain stable proportions over such a long time only if an unlike pair is "fitter" than other possible pairings. This means a CD pairing must be more advantageous than either CC (no bias) or DD (extreme bias). Being fitter, in evolutionary terms, means that individuals with CD pairings produce more viable offspring than those with the other pairings. That means that a right-left

bias in the brain is genetically superior to a no-bias or extreme-bias situation. But why? Several scientists have suggested that a bias evolved because, for learning purposes, it was more efficient and quicker for speech to be produced and processed by the same hemisphere of the brain.

Professor McManus explains: "If an engineer was building the human brain from scratch, he certainly wouldn't build it in its present form: two equally powerful halves with poor connections. It's like setting up a company with two headquarters, one in London and one in Melbourne, with just the telephone to connect them. That is why we have evolved to have language in one hemisphere."

It makes sense to assume that any bias would be

achieved at the expense of the other side of the brain. In most people, the left hemisphere is larger than the right. Dr Corballis suggests that the D allele is responsible for "pruning" the right side of the brain. A DD pairing results in too much pruning; a CC pairing in too little or none.

According to this hypothesis, those with CC or DD pairings would have their brains wired in a less effective way. So they should show poorer cognitive skills than those with a CD pairing. Indeed, people who show extreme handedness are less accomplished at reading than moderate right or left-handers. Controversial studies in mathematical skill, spatial reasoning, academic achievement and speech processing also seem to support the theory.

Dr Corballis ran a simulation which showed that once a

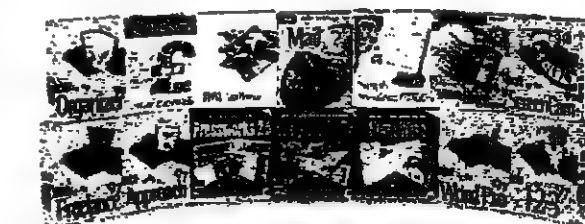
genetic advantage, however tiny, was established, it would spread through a population like wildfire. He estimates it would have taken no longer than 30,000 years, or 1,250 generations, for this mutant allele to establish itself fully.

When could the D allele have emerged? It could have surfaced as *H. sapiens* emerged out of Africa. If *H. sapiens* was previously confined to a small area, it would provide an ideal environment for the rapid and comprehensive spread of a mutation. There are profound consequences of dating the mutation to *H. sapiens*. It explains why toolmaking and language progressed so rapidly over the past 70,000 years, compared with the previous two million. Professor McManus says: "If this mutation determined only handedness, it would be just an eccentric little twist. But it put language in one half of the brain, which allowed us to develop complex social skills. And it is that complexity which makes us special."

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'Two good parents is ideal. One good one is good enough'

Christa Worthington reflects on why she joined a group that helps single women to become mothers

Someone, a date, I think, once asked me if I was afraid of death. Pensive youth that I was, I said no, I wasn't afraid of dying; I was afraid of never having lived.

Well, I didn't marry him or anyone else, and I'm still thinking such thoughts, but they are more pressing now that half my life has gone by. For years I hoarded motherhood carefully, like a squirrel does nuts. I planned to retrieve it one day when I was absolutely safe and sound.

Throughout my thirties my thoughts about babies were often sad and anxious, given that I wasn't becoming a mother when I expected to. But as soon as I had the luck to fall in love, I would revert to glowing optimism, attached to

a particular man. And all would be right with the world — for a time.

Now I am reinventing the world. There is, at the moment, no father for a child of mine, no husband for me, and what if there never is? I have had to stare this scenario in the face, and to my surprise, it hasn't killed me. Instead, I can have my life by claiming the decision of whether or not to become a mother. The decision does not belong entirely to time and circumstances, nor does it belong to anybody else.

This much — the thinking about it — comes as a liberation. At the far end of my childbearing years, choice, the feminist banner I waved in the Seventies, is painted in very different colours. To control fertility now means having the



Christa Worthington: "There is, now, no father for a child of mine, no husband for me. What if there never is? I have had to stare this scenario in the face; to my surprise, it hasn't killed me"

option of conceiving without a man in the picture — a freedom that brings with it awesome responsibility and, like abortion, the occasional wrath of others.

In the parlance of Single Mothers by Choice (SMC), a 15-year-old national support group for women like me, I have become a "Thinker"; someone still in the Rodin pose, who has not yet gone prone, into "trying", through

insemination by an anonymous donor or someone I know. I am also considering adoption. I haven't made up my mind: I'm too preoccupied with wrestling my biological time limit to the ground. It's a weirdly omnipotent yet powerless position — being intensely aware of your reproductive capacities as you watch them fade to black.

"To think," in SMC terms, is to enter a gestation period very like a pregnancy, with its own queasiness, cravings and sensations. It has its emotional distortions and its highs and lows, all moving on the rock

profit organisation, and now has members in most states. She and other mothers share information, run workshops for Thinkers, Tryers and Stuck Thinkers, and network through an SMC newsletter. Of the group's 2,000 members, 98 per cent have a college education, and on average this group earns \$42,000 (£26,000) a year, about \$10,000 more than the average American man in the same age group. Statistics indicate that by 2001, up to 40 per cent of all babies born in the United States will be to single mothers. "People hear that there are two parents

and assume they are good parents," says Ms Mattes. "Two good parents is the ideal. One good parent is good enough."

Fifty per cent of Thinkers decide not to have a child. What is the difference between the Thinker who tries and one who doesn't? "You have to grieve the loss of your life choice," Ms Mattes says. That, for me, is the irony of being a Thinker: you must embrace the heart-rending imperfections that you have spent a lifetime sanding smooth: making sure not to marry the wrong man or put a child in a shaky situation.

asked the nurse in the waiting room of the fertility clinic. I have come here for preliminary tests, to buy time as I waste it. Crates holding frozen sperm in containers of liquid nitrogen are left, like milk, by the door. "No, I'm looking for sperm," I say, and the rock star on the modular sofa laughs. The doctor directs me to binders of profiles, selected at random from the sperm bank, from which I am to peruse my future. (Photos of sperm donors remain unavailable, even though photos of young female egg donors are offered in triplicate — smiling, full-length and in close-up.) "We'll start with DI, and if that doesn't work in a few months, we'll go to in vitro," he declares. In vitro, extracting eggs to fertilise in a Petri dish, is an entirely different animal to me, one that costs \$7,000 to \$10,000 a try. So I am

cheered by the note on a donor form, written in the donor's own hand, that his mother looked like Liz Taylor "without the ensuing weight gain". I feel torrents of warmth for this man. But he's "out", as in "sold out", when I phone the 800 number to order.

"I think my donor's cute," says Ruth, never having seen him, and she offers me his donor number, four digits long. This is an incredible act of generosity. We could have siblings! (He has also sold out.) I later learn that SMC has started a sibling registry.

"I want to tell you to just go ahead," Ruth says. "But I know it's a hard decision." She seems so far ahead of me, as well as near. "I really can't wait to see this kid," she says in a tone unique to this new blind faith, and we fall silent thinking those old thoughts: Whose hair? Whose eyes?

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Ruth offers her donor's number. We could have siblings!

how you would be of the ideal," Ms Mattes says. That, for me, is the irony of being a Thinker: you must embrace the heart-rending imperfections that you have spent a lifetime sanding smooth: making sure not to marry the wrong man or put a child in a shaky situation.

"The key is to not see yourself as a failure," says my friend Ruth, seven months pregnant by anonymous donor insemination (DI), and I feel a flood of relief. I held the door open for Ruth at my first SMC meeting, and she has since shot past me, to pregnancy by a donor whose long form (medical and genetic history going back three generations) and audiotape she liked. "I still want a husband for me and a father for my child. I still have that dream," she says. "I've just postponed it."

Ms Mattes, a psychotherapist, convened a group of single mothers, like herself, in her home in 1981. By 1982 the group had become a non-

walked into an SMC meeting in Manhattan together, in the basement of a community centre that felt like a bomb shelter. Where were the men? Had there been a war? Women of all shapes and sizes, beautiful and not, well-off and not, had gathered in a circle of chairs around toddlers fighting over toys. Anxiety was palpable among the Tryers, though not from the Mothers — they seemed serene. DI is an emotional rollercoaster of hope and disappointment that can go on for months at (at least) \$700 a cycle. A few of the women had quasi-partners in the wings: longstanding relationships with married or unavailable men.

We broke up into small circles of Tryers, Thinkers and Mothers. An elegant brunette bent her ear to a tape recorder, to scrutinise, in a dreamy, rhapsodic way, the voice of the donor whose sperm she had ordered. Women fanned out around her like children at story hour, all craning to hear. He sounded great, they assured her. Then the voice on the tape made a grammatical slip, and the brunettes winced.

Taped interviews in which a donor responds to questions about his health, family and interests are the latest offering from an industry increasingly pressured to be less anonymous, especially by SMCs. I go for a smooth baritone. "Distinguishing characteristics... I can't think of any," said a 24-year-old history major whose tape I had ordered, and I thought I heard a voice I could listen to for a lifetime.

I see I am in a new stage of the process. I have begun to do things I never thought I would. I read the long profiles three times over before I go to sleep, divining beauty in the merest description: black hair, green eyes. I research adoption agencies, then stop, overwhelmed.

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997

Manchester United ruined my life

Supporting Manchester City is one of football's great lost causes. So why do five old friends keep doing it? Interview by Jason Cowley

True Manchester City fans will never forget Sunday, May 5, 1996 — the day their beloved team were relegated after losing at home to Liverpool, and their despised rivals, Manchester United, won the FA Cup Premiership. It was the day, too, when four men returned to the city of their childhood to mark more than 40 years of friendship and devotion to one of football's great lost causes: supporting Manchester City.

They were Colin Shindler, a writer and producer, David Green, a film director and managing director of September Films, Jeffrey Cohen and Michael Chadwick. "It was the most extraordinary weekend," Shindler says. "It seemed like this siren call had gone out from Maine Road [City's home ground], drawing people home from all over the world."

Howard Davies, a close friend of Shindler and chairman of the Financial Services Association — as well as former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England — was also at a game given added resonance by the fact that it coincided with the 40th anniversary of City's FA Cup Final victory over Birmingham when the Manchester goalkeeper, Bert Trautmann, a former German prisoner-of-war, famously played on in great pain after breaking his neck.

The friends' reunion inspired Shindler to write *Manchester United Ruined My Life*, an autobiographical account of his devotion to Manchester City, which will be published by Hodder Headline next spring. The book touches on the glorious irrationality of fandom, something psychologically complex and bound up with tribalism and feelings of identity and belonging. It is a powerful force over which one has absolutely no control.

For the true fan, loyalties formed in childhood can never be altered: not even if, as in the case of Manchester City, supporting a failure of a football club brings with it only misery and dejection, brings with it, as it does for Shindler and his friends, the only source of weakness in a life of professional strength.

The contrast between the position of the two Manchester clubs could not be starker. United, the richest and arguably most glamorous club in the world, are top of the Premiership and among the favourites to win the European Cup. For United the 1990s has been a procession of success: four championships, two FA Cups and two Doubles; their wealth is boosted by an incomparable merchandising empire.

City, in a state of perpetual crisis, are floundering at the bottom of the First Division. The club, which has the potential to be one of the biggest in England, has never been in a worse position in its 110-year history. A second relegation in three years is possible.

Unlike City, with its stadium in depressed Moss Side and support drawn largely from within Manchester, United are a national, even international, club with a cosmopolitan glamour. The old joke about never hearing a Manchester accent at Old Trafford — United's marvellous stadium — has a ring of satirical truth: there are as many Cockney as Mancunian

United fans. City remain resolutely local: gritty, poor, stubbornly proud. Yet Shindler can no more switch allegiance to United than he can change the colour of his eyes: supporting City is intrinsic to who he is. As Davies puts it: "My support of City is not a matter of choice. I inherited two fatal flaws from my father: premature baldness and Manchester City, neither of which I can change. It's like a tribal bond, something irreversible."



Shindler with his hero Colin Bell

As a financial regulator, Davies leads a life, he says, of bounded rationality: quantitative, rigorous, analytical. "My work involves logic and rationality. Yet supporting City is clearly irrational. What is happening at the club is disastrous, awful; but no matter how bad it gets I have this emotional attachment to them that I cannot break."

As for Davies, so with Shindler and Green: supporting City is a tie that binds, a narrative thread linking their boyhood in Manchester to their London lives of ambition and affluent achievement. They have collaborated on numerous projects and films, including *Buster*, about the train robber Buster Edwards, which starred Phil Collins.

"The club has always been a thread in our lives," Shindler says. "If the phone rings after a game, it's either David or

Howard. When we were separated by 6,000 miles [Green spent four years in Los Angeles], I knew David was listening to the World Service or logged on to the Net trying to find out the result. I knew he was having the same response as me to another home defeat."

David Green adds, laughing: "I can remember those early mornings in California — fiddling with my long-wave radio trying to find the World Service; and I knew Colin was there in England waiting for the same result, sharing the experience."

City even brought them together when they fell out after *Buster*. "After that film I grabbed most of the success," Green says. "I went to direct in Hollywood, leaving Colin, who wrote the script, holding the proverbial baby to Muswell Hill. I was making a lot of money, living the millionaire's life."

Shindler interjects: "It wasn't a money thing. Like Howard, I'm not really interested in money. You can take everything away from me except my books. But I thought we were partners, we did everything together..." His voice fades.

The two friends are relaxing in the Sobo offices of September Films. They have the ease of a lifetime of friendship.

They met at Bury Grammar School in the late 1950s, where their Jewishness and mutual love of City brought them together. Mention of the Bert Trautmann Cup Final animates them: they spar like teenagers as they discuss past matches and the possible reasons for the prolonged malaise at City.

"For our generation that match was the defining moment," Shindler says of the 1956 final. It was the game that made Green a City fan. "I remember watching it on television when I was seven," he says. "I later met Howard Davies at primary school. He stood out not just because he was going bald at the age of eight, but because he was one of the few Manchester City fans at the school."

He breaks off to laugh, pointing out that he and Davies have always enjoyed a playfully antagonistic relationship. After primary school Green went to Bury, where he met Colin Shindler, and Howard Davies to Manchester Grammar. They met up again at Oxford; they share little, Green jokes, but their enduring, fanatical support for City. "We only ever meet either in the gift shop at Maine Road or at a mutual friend's party. But in fairness to Howard, he was probably going bald precisely because he was one of the few Manchester City fans. Even in those days there seemed to be a huge dominance of United fans — what with the Busby Babes and, later, the Munich disaster."

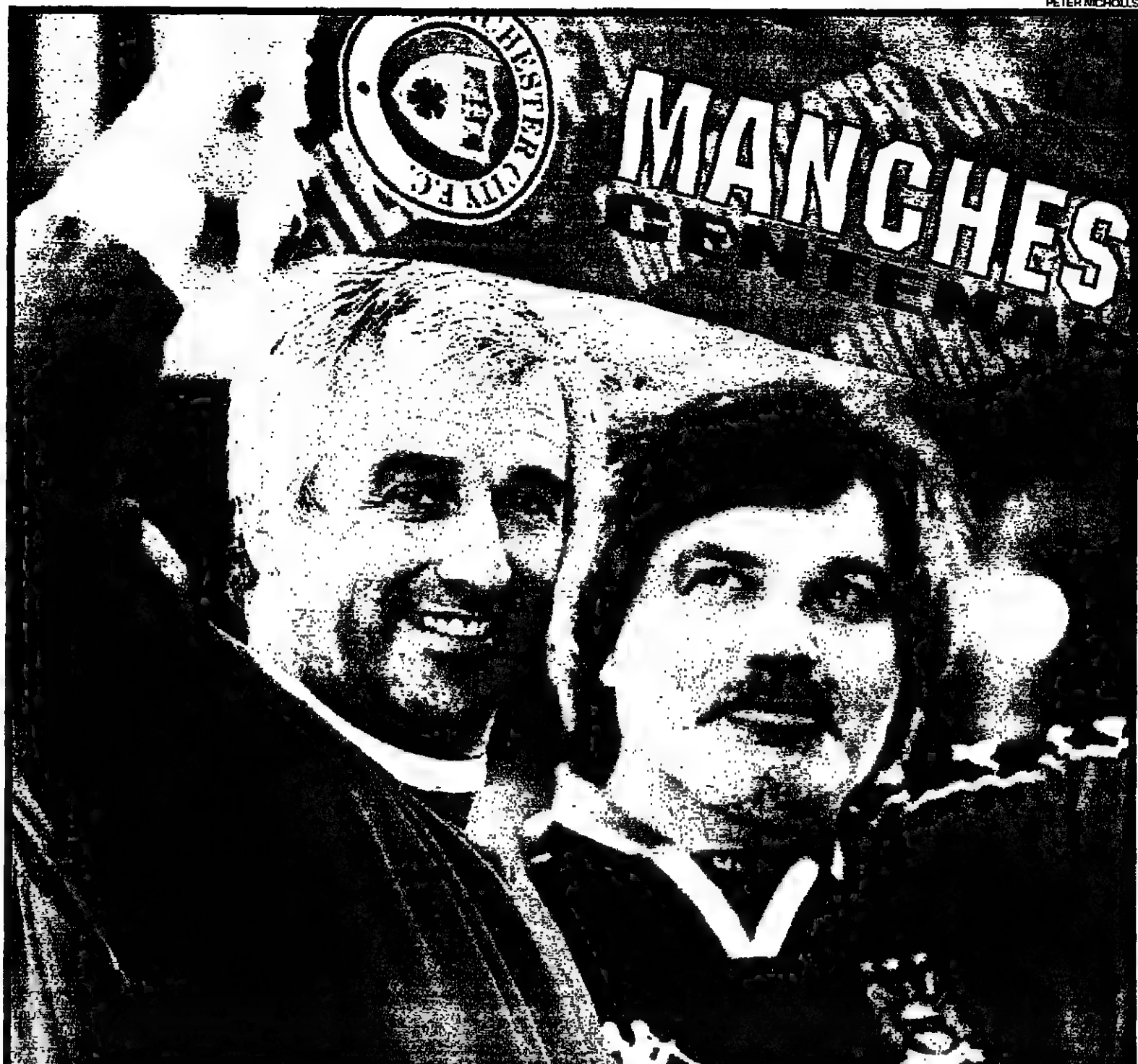
For his part, Davies has no recollection of David Green at primary school. "I met him at Oxford," he says, sternly. "He introduced me to Colin, who was at Cambridge, and with whom I go to watch City all the time. I haven't seen David at many games."

Even in their contempt for United the two old university friends are at odds. Davies, describing himself as a City rather than a football fan, would rather never watch another match than see United. "I absolutely loathe them. What gets to me about United is their ubiquity; you can't avoid them. They've even got Bobby Charlton's daughter presenting the weather."

Green, who gently dismisses Shindler and Davies as roundheads ("in Howard's case quite literally"), concedes



Howard Davies: "My support for City is tribal"



Shindler and David Green: supporting City is the tie that binds, a thread linking their boyhood in Manchester to their London lives of ambition and affluence

that as a "flash bugger" he ought to follow United. He is also more "cavalier" in his support of City, less intense in his loathing of United. He says: "Colin and I have light and shade in our relationship between United and City; we are as passionate as Howard but much more objective. The reason, I think, is that Colin and I have brothers who are fanatical United fans. Howard is an only child and his obsession is total. Siblings bring balance to opinion: Howard is total in his likes and dislikes; he loves success and hates failure. But at the centre of his life is this disaster zone that contradicts everything he believes in."

Again Davies disagrees.

"All this about being an only child... I have always regarded myself as a gregarious person, not some driven loner. It sounds like odd psychology to me."

Yet for all their sparring and protestations of gloom, one feels that these City fans would not want things any other way; that they derive a perverse pleasure from following what Davies calls "this utterly hopeless quest".

They clearly seek to discover abundance in loss, by locating happiness in the search for glory rather than in its realisation: in the pursuit of happiness, not its fulfilment. Shindler says: "Yes, you're right. I rather like being an outsider, the whingeing bloke on the sidelines, not part of the in-crowd. I like the fact that City will always be seen as the other club in town. This was the case even when we were the better team in the late 1960s and early 1970s. I would hate it if City became fashionable." And so would Davies and Green, who concedes that City's failure is a levelling influence in his life.

But are they being a touch disingenuous? As the chosen team of the Gallagher brothers of Oasis, City surely have acquired a kind of negative glamour, a frayed fashionability, as it were. Green partially agrees, but counters thus: "But even here United have the edge. Look, City might have the rude and vulgar Gallagher brothers as supporters, but United's star player, David Beckham, goes out with one of the Spice Girls. You see what I mean: it's cooler having a player who goes to bed with a Spice Girl than famous supporters who are rude and disgusting. United seem to top City at every stage."

The room fills with laughter. You leave them trading soft insults like boys as they rummage in their sports bags for their light blue Manchester City shirts.

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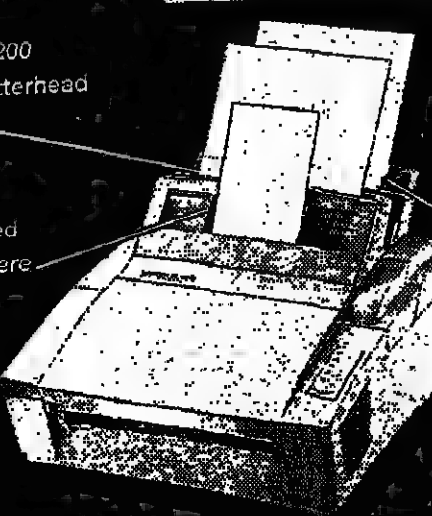
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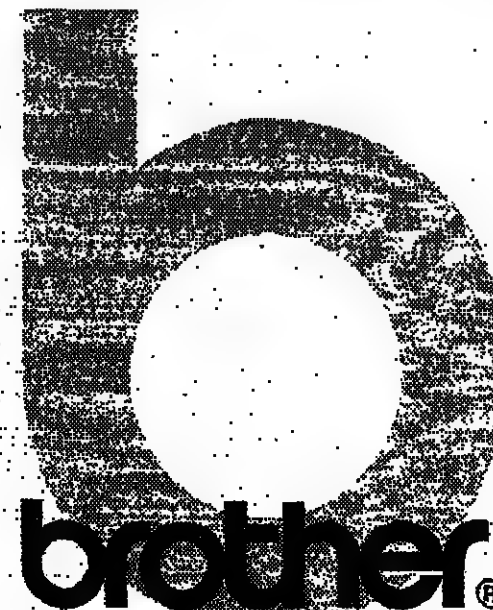
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Message loud and clear

English National Opera could not possibly, even with weeks of careful planning, have given a clearer demonstration of what the company is all about than with this outstanding performance of Verdi's comedy, their first new production coming ten days after Chris Smith's bizarre and hysterical *Ukase*. It was imaginatively cast, meticulously rehearsed, and just about every word of Amanda Holden's excellent translation was clearly audible.

This enabled Paul Daniel —

the company's music director and, *faisle de mieux*, chief executive — to quote Holden's "ménage à trois" line in a curtain speech rallying support. His remark that eight of the nine performances ENO had given since *The Day* had played to audiences too large for any other London theatre said it all, and the roar of solidarity would not have disgraced a football crowd.

Matthew Warchus's production is shared with Opera North: when it was unveiled in Leeds earlier this year there were those, myself included, who wondered if it would transfer happily to the larger Coliseum stage. A needless worry: it has transferred beautifully, its strengths enhanced, its weaknesses minimised. Laura Hopkins's box sets for the first two acts are perched attractively and helpfully — for words — right downstage in the middle of the proscenium opening; her false-perspective street and Windsor Forest have been rebuilt and gain enormously in atmosphere.

The chief virtue of Warchus's direction is that it is text-based. There is a welcome absence of the sight-gags to which directors of Italian-language operas are so often obliged to resort: the laughs come from the words and the notes, and from an audience that is listening to the perfor-



Playing for laughs: Alan Opie sings his first Falstaff beautifully, with Rita Cullis as a splendid Mistress Alice Ford

mance rather than reading it. The action may be "straight" almost to a fault — no disguise for Ford, and so comely and young a Mistress Quickly that she should be the recipient of a third letter — but there are some good laughs, among them Rita Cullis's splendidly robust Alice deftly fending flying items of laundry and returning them.

Alan Opie, for 23 years an ENO artist, was singing his first Falstaff. As always with him, words and notes are an indissoluble entity: the role was most beautifully, subtly phrased and enunciated, and the combination of a young voice and acute observation of old men's body language was perfect for the role. Keith Latham, a solid and sturdy singer, took a giant leap forward with his Ford: his baritone is filling out noticeably at both top and bottom

and he hit the Jealousy Monologues with true Italianate *slancio*. Catherine Wyn-Rogers's young Quickly had no need for comic chest-register exaggeration: gorgeously full, coppery sound is already there, and she could just concentrate on singing the notes as expressively as they deserve.

As the lovers, Mary Plazas and Charles Workman looked like teenagers and sang with easy lyricism: Cullis's Alice was, as in Leeds, pure joy to watch and hear. And, tactless to note since Daniel was in charge in Leeds, the score is rather better conducted and played. Oliver von Dohnányi draws all the wit and warmth from the music without ever overwhelming the words. A joyful, inspiring evening.

RODNEY MILNES

Schubert dazzles in fine company

For Gidon Kremer, Schubert is our contemporary. And the violinist lives every note with a naked intensity. It is this fevered approach which has made sense of his complex Schubert series at the Barbican. In juxtaposing the Viennese master with 20th-century composers he has found echoes of the emotional sincerity he finds at the heart of Schubert. But the lasting impression is of Schubert's works as vivid presences in a desolate landscape.

This was the effect of this programme in which he placed Shostakovich's Symphony No 15 before Schubert's String Quintet in C: two valdelyrics works by composers near enough to death to taste it. The contrast was violent. Besides the glowing wholeness of Schubert, the Shostakovich appears as a fitful dream, with ghostly quotations from Wagner, Rossini and Shostakovich himself stalking amid the skeletal clutter.

Why Kremer chose it is perplexing. Shostakovich's sparse scoring makes a reduction possible, but what the arranger Derzhaniko has written is an unimaginative transcription whereby the piano takes the bulk of the orchestration. The violin and cello struggle to be a string section (often playing in painfully uncushioned unison) and the percussion is unchanged.

Despite the musicians' obvious commitment, one couldn't help feeling party to an ad hoc playthrough, the result of someone's outlandish idea of trying to play a symphony at the piano with some friends. Even the cellist Boris Pergamenschikov joined in to play the celeste, none too comfortably. That aside, there was fine work from the pianist Vadim Sakharov. Kremer and viola player Clemens Hagen. Hagen is developing a raw side, perhaps from years of working with Kremer, while the latter is wiser than ever, turning Shostakovich's play on the *Tristan* theme into a gussy street ballad. In one of the rare moments of creative instrumentation both players swung into what would have been glissando trombone chords with caustic glee.

CONCERT
Gidon Kremer and Friends
Barbican

Kremer's dominating musical personality was always in danger of unbalancing the Schubert quintet. Not that he hadn't assembled a formidable team: Hagen was joined by Pergamenschikov, French violinist Gerard Caussade and the former Haydn Quartet violinist, Annette Bilk. Their sound in the warmly embraced trio was exceptionally splendid. Yet where Kremer was hectic they were reverent, where he veered from sublime pianissimo to crashing forte the others struggled to catch up, and with a more limited palette.

HELEN WALLACE

This week in THE TIMES



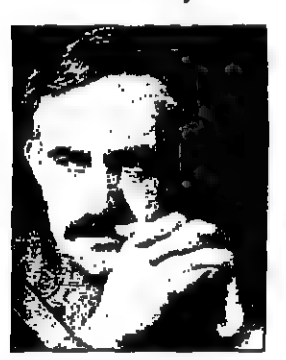
OPERA
The Royal Opera relocates to the Albert Hall for its production of *Otello*
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



THEATRE
Ruthie Henshall struts her stuff in Kander and Ebb's *Chicago* at the Adelphi
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



DANCE
Scottish Ballet launches its festive season with a debut from Wayne Sleep
OPENS: Thurs, Glasgow
REVIEW: Monday



FILM
Jonathan Pryce stars in *Regeneration*, set during the First World War
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: The American folk singer Joan Baez begins a tour in Crawley, Friday

Hilary Finch reports on the merry revival of the 17th-century St Cecilia Festival in London

Blessed Cecilia, she who is summoned annually to appear in visions to all musicians, almost certainly had nothing to do with music at all. A relentlessly celibate Roman wife, she refused to renounce her faith and was left for 24 hours to suffocate in a dry steam bath before receiving three axe-blows to the neck. She lived — at least for a significant three further days. Hence her canonisation. The iconographical organ, from which she has been inseparable ever since, was probably simply a mistranslation from the Latin *organum*, meaning the instruments played on her wedding day.

Feast to rival the heyday of Purcell

newly formed Society of Gentlemen. Lovers of Music arranged for an annual concert to be held at Stationers' Hall on that day. In 1692, the year of Purcell's *Hail! Bright Cecilia*, the *Gentlemen's Journal* reported: "A splendid entertainment is provided, and before it is always a Performance of Music by the best voices and hands in Town."

Unfortunately the feasting, which was an integral part of the annual celebrations, turned into a veritable bacchanal of intolerable noise and rampant vandalism. The Gentlemen Lovers were unceremoniously banished from Stationers' Hall.

Exactly 300 years after the premiere of Purcell's *Bright Cecilia*, Dr Penelope Rapson and her Flori Musicali marked the anniversary by performing the Ode in Stationers' Hall. The success of the event led to the restoration of the festival and, in 1995, to the revival of the Society of Gentlemen Lovers of Music to support it, and to provide the excuse for some better behaved, if no less lavish, banqueting. Today the society is chaired by Donald Tregidga, himself a Member of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers.

In this year's seven nights of feasting and merrymaking the festival (which ends on Saturday with Handel's *Alexander's Feast*) will also extend to Schubert and New Orleans Jazz. Schubert's Fifth Symphony played by a Baroque ensemble? Rapson, who will conduct, points out that the work was first performed in a Viennese drawing-room, "and it needs to be treated with every bit as much respect for the right instrumentation and articulation as Baroque music". And on Friday Stationers' Hall will transform itself into the New Orleans Preservation Hall at the turn of the century (without the Temperance) with a visit from Brian White's *Magna Jazz Band*.

The last composer to hymn Cecilia was Arthur Bliss with his anthem *Sing, Mortals* in 1974. Does Rapson plan to revive the Gentlemen Lovers' tradition of commissioning new works? "Next year is likely to see our first commission. And we may commission new poetry as well."

St Cecilia Festival, Stationers' Hall, London EC4 (01327 361380), all this week

Original colours

Graham Collier, currently celebrating his sixtieth birthday, could be forgiven a spot of quiet self-congratulation. He is, after all, a true pioneer of British jazz, the first UK student at Boston's Berklee College of Music, and the first jazz recipient of an Arts Council bursary, for *Workpoints*. Most importantly, he has always been in the vanguard of those attempting to ensure that jazz takes root, grows and flourishes in this country, through education (as artistic director of the Royal Academy of Music's jazz course since 1987) and workshops.

But Collier is, characteristically, as busy as ever at present, writing, educating and — as in this deeply satisfying concert, the last in a short series with his 14-piece Jazz Ensemble — conducting performances of his latest compositions. He began with *Three Simple Pieces*, composed for his sixtieth birthday concert at the Royal Academy, and featuring four long-time associates: trumpeter/flugelhorn player Steve Waterman, guitarist Ed Speight, saxophonist Art Themen and drummer John Marshall.

JAZZ
Graham Collier's Jazz Ensemble
Purcell Room

Collier's career-long determination to foster such individuality and originality was celebrated in the concert's second half, in two more extended pieces: *The Miro Tile* and *The Third Colour*. The latter was the evening's most adventurous piece, courtesy of its reliance on Collier's signals as to who should improvise on its rousing and lilting themes.

As a practical demonstration of Collier's central philosophy — "it is the individual who is important, and combining a set of individuals can produce an engaging result" — this concert succeeded superbly; as importantly, however, it provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of a true British jazz original.

CHRIS PARKER

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My plans to clean up party politics

Tony Blair says reform of funding is long overdue

The funding of political parties is one of the great unresolved questions of our democracy. No one who examines the current free-for-all believes it works well, or fairly. Yet for years nothing has been done. And until this Parliament there has been no Government prepared to take action to end the abuses.

As I promised long before the election, the Labour Party wants openness and fairness in procedures for party funding. So today, for the first time, the political will in government exists. So, too, does the means — a full review by the Neill committee, the successor to Nolan, which can set out clearly the principles and procedures all parties should follow.

The Labour Party made an important start in reform before the last election. I made it clear we would ban all foreign donations. We are doing it. I said we would publish a list of all donors where donations are more than £5,000. And I have.

But that is only a start. The questions are whether there should be ceilings on the overall amount spent in national elections; whether there should be top limits for individual donations; and whether the name and amount of individual and company donors should be published.

Each of these suggestions would represent a major reform in itself. Taken together, they would add up to a completely new world of electoral finance, making for greater openness and fairness in our democracy. And it remains open to consider whether there should be business funding at all.

For years the Conservatives have been able to collect millions directly and from front organisations. They have done so from abroad as well as from home. They have collected without ever formally naming the source of any donation. They have never declared one penny of the money they have received.

Even when pressed about dubious donors such as Asil Nadir, they have merely promised to consider the matter after a prosecution in a British court and even now failed to keep their promise to return the money. Recent promises to provide lists of donors have yet to be honoured. Today, while Labour has already acted, the Conservatives clearly have no desire to be open and above board.

Some say Labour should go beyond the reforms we have already proposed, and unilaterally set our own limits for the size of individual donations while at the same time naming all donors and the amounts they give.

Indeed, some say it would be right not only to propose this but to do it irrespective of what other parties are prepared to do. Yet the consequences for elections of this unilateral action should be considered in detail. It is not just that Labour donors alone would be subject to the kind of grotesque misrepresentation that David Sainsbury, Alec Reed and others have suffered in recent days. It is also that if the Conservatives refused to

play by decent rules, while others exercised openness and restraint, then elections would be even less fair and democracy would suffer.

Far from advancing the cause of fairness, we would merely be aggravating an unjust position that has existed all century — where the Conservatives, with secret funding, have been able to outpace every other rival many times over.

So the question that must be faced is whether other parties will voluntarily do likewise, and if they do not what should be done. Clearly if they refuse to play by the rules, then there is no level playing field and democracy suffers.

The Labour Party will take its own position in its submission to Sir Patrick Neill. I will be recommending the toughest possible set of rules. If there is one lesson to be learnt from this episode, it is that the current rules do not work.

I believe there to be a powerful case for national limits on electoral expenditures. We will also be ready to limit individual and company donations to a modest amount. At the same time we stand ready to publish names and amounts.

We will be ready also to consider any proposals Sir Patrick has for state funding of political parties. At the moment state funding exists almost by the backdoor — through support for Parliamentary research; Opposition party funding; help with free postage for all candidates sending their election addresses; and free TV time for party political broadcasts. Any examination of state funding should take all this into account. I remain, however, instinctively cautious about further such funding.

As the Neill investigation proceeds we are happy, too, to submit a list of all past donors, and to do so for the past five years. So we will be happy to open our books. But it is right that if we do that every party does so, and if Sir Patrick decides this is right we will offer legislative backing for any requests he makes.

Reform is necessary, but it will require to be backed by measures to counteract loopholes and avoidance. So we have to be clear that we can avoid opportunities for front organisations to receive money. We have to be sure that there are arrangements in place for a proper policing of the system. And we have to be clear that we can ensure foreign funding is banned for good. We must not end up, as in the United States, with rules that start with the promise of tightening up on party donations and end in avoidance and then disillusionment.

Yesterday I apologised over the handling of the Formula One affair, and vowed that we learn the lessons. We will. One of them is that the laws on funding should be reformed sooner rather than later. Out of the difficulties of the past week, and out of the real scandals of the Tory years, can come changes that make for a healthier democracy. I stand ready to help Sir Patrick Neill bring in those changes. I urge other party leaders to join me.

Isaiah Berlin and Jimmy Goldsmith were utterly different personalities — but Jewishness was at their core

Last Thursday I went to the celebration in memory of Sir James Goldsmith at St John's, Smith Square, on Saturday and Sunday evening I viewed Michael Ignatieff's beautifully peaceful interviews with Sir Isaiah Berlin on BBC2. I knew both men, about equally well, and had a rather similar relationship with each, one of long-standing and friendly acquaintance. As Henry Kissinger, who became a close friend of Jimmy Goldsmith only late in life, said of their early relationship, Jimmy burst unpredictably into his from time to time, with the longest intervals in between.

It was the same in my case: I tried to act as an honest broker in a settlement of his libel action against *Private Eye* in the 1970s; he wanted to buy *The Times* in 1980; I played a walk-on part in the great bid for BATs in the late 1980s, when he invented the word "unbundling"; he backed my appeal to the courts against the Maastricht treaty; I was somewhat sympathetic to the Referendum Party, but thought its political strategy was unwise.

The core of what I admired and liked about both men had something to do with the Jewish formation of their minds. I once interviewed Golda Meir in Israel when she was Prime Minister. She used a phrase about herself which has stuck in my memory: she said she was "a non-observant Jewess". Both Isaiah and Jimmy were certainly non-observant; neither had any formal religious belief, Jewish or otherwise. Like Golda Meir, Isaiah was deeply Jewish in his ethnic consciousness; Jimmy, in his personal way, was deeply half-Jewish. He had a very strong sense of his father's Jewish roots, but an equally strong loyalty to his mother's French peasant, and therefore, Catholic, ancestry. At the end, it is said that he found himself thinking increasingly about spiritual reality. I did not discuss these matters

Two men with their hearts in history

with him — though I now wish I had. In the last long conversation I had with him, which was almost a year before his death, I felt he was more a Catholic than a Jew in relation to the next world, and more a Jew than a Catholic in relation to this one, but he had faith in neither religion.

There was no Catholicism in Isaiah Berlin, and no belief in God either. Michael Ignatieff brought out an apparent contradiction in his liberal philosophy. He denied believing in absolutes, yet he also denied being a relativist; he recognised evil and opposed it. It was as though he saw evil as an absolute, and saw the absolute evil of Soviet Communism, but could not bring himself to regard any good as absolute; people had to choose good for themselves and build their own systems of value.

By the standards they set themselves, the lives of Isaiah Berlin and Jimmy Goldsmith were modest affairs, too successful to be called failures, but falling short of their highest potential. Isaiah Berlin was an influential liberal thinker, who played a gallant part in the mid-20th-century counterattack on totalitarian dogmatism. He was a student of the history of ideas rather than an original philosopher. Jimmy Goldsmith built up a great fortune, which was his aim, but did not found a great business. His excursions into politics were well financed, but he could do little to hold back the tide of history when it was running against him. The fact that these two men were

among the most interesting and valuable people of their time, does not alter the limitation in their achievement; that was fully recognised in his own case by Isaiah Berlin in the Ignatieff interviews.

Their most admirable quality was not that they prevailed, though each had an important influence, but that they struggled with the great issues. My own experience is that this struggle has been much more common among my Jewish than among my non-Jewish friends; among out-

William Rees-Mogg

ers, I think of Keith Joseph. It is not that Jews are more intelligent than other Englishmen; some are and some are not. It is that they are more often serious about the world issues than the English, or than the broad Euro-American culture itself. Of course the Holocaust is an historic experience which Jews cannot evade, but many non-Jews choose not to remember.

Isaiah Berlin's big theme was liberty under the challenges of the mid-20th century, when Europe was conquered by Hitler and the Soviet Union was ruled by Stalin. Another Jewish intellectual for whom I have a

great admiration is George Steiner: he has spent his life trying to understand the impact on culture of the experience of the Holocaust. In a rather similar way, Isaiah Berlin tried to understand the impact on liberty of the experience of Stalinism. Our historic context is very different from that of earlier generations and demands this rethinking.

Jimmy Goldsmith, though himself highly intelligent, tried to answer these great questions by actions rather than theories. He believed in a much more freebooting liberty than that of Isaiah Berlin, but liberty was not his central theme. That was tribalism. The most moving moments of the service of celebration were all tribal. Chief Buthelezi processed to the dais, dancing to a Zulu chant; Henry Kissinger spoke of the "miracle" of a close friendship late in life of two men who, while being so many other things, were also German Jews by ancestry; the celebration included the music of the Mexican mariachis; it closed with the New Orleans spiritual *When the Saints go marching in*.

Jimmy Goldsmith was fascinated by other ethnicities because he had so many himself — Jewish, French, English and German to start with. He also had several times the normal genetic share of manhood, which made his private life so complex but so warm, gave him his extraordinary authority, and made him seem rather like an Old Testament patriarch. He was a sympathetic and heroic figure

for other ultra-masculine cultures, including the Mexican and the Zulu.

I always admired the wisdom of Isaiah Berlin's belief in the values of liberty: for him it was rightly a battle of the books, rather than of the barricades. I went with Jimmy Goldsmith's campaign only as far as the battle of the law courts, and thought Putney a bridge too far. Yet Goldsmith's central insight, though a harder truth, may have been the more significant: he believed that liberty can be preserved only through the individual nation. Listening to the second of the Ignatieff interviews, when Isaiah Berlin rejected the State which treats the citizen as a child, one felt that he had at last seen the threat in the European project, and had realised the difference between his values and those of Brussels.

With Goldsmith there was no doubt. He was English, French and German; that did not castrate his sense of nationhood. He knew that the European project had become a threat to all three of these nations, and that the individual nations were still the guarantors of liberty. Of course, Isaiah Berlin saw that this was true of Israel and of the Palestinian nation as well.

Both men may by now be surprised to find themselves in the next world, in which they did not properly believe. Yet the existence of a religious reality shines through the work of both their lives. For Isaiah Berlin, truth and liberty, in which he put his faith, were spiritual absolutes even if he did not think they were. For Jimmy Goldsmith, courage and loyalty were his absolutes, but he also felt the archaic animism of all his tribal religions. I have no idea what the words of Chief Buthelezi's chant meant, but they spoke to me of the Zulu gods welcoming home a tribal hero. When the saints go marching in, both men will be in their number.

It's no good just being sorry

Mr Blair needs to go further to regain the initiative, says Peter Riddell

Saying sorry is not enough. Tony Blair belatedly acknowledged yesterday that the Government had made mistakes in its handling of the exemption of Formula One from the tobacco sponsorship ban. But his "trust me" apology, however rare from a Prime Minister, will not end the affair.

I do not believe that Mr Blair's decision was influenced by the £1 million donation from Bernie Ecclestone. The Prime Minister's account of how policy was made was convincing, even if ministers have been naive in accepting at face value the warnings about Formula One shifting overseas and the grossly inflated estimates of the impact on employment.

Less convincing, however, was Mr Blair's explanation of how and when he realised there was a conflict of interest. He argued that this threat arose only earlier this month, when the decision was taken, rather than on October 16, when he met Mr Ecclestone. While several options were being considered during the second half of October, Mr Blair and other ministers were then already sympathetic to Formula One, as is apparent from the Civil Service note of the meeting released yesterday. He should have acted earlier over the £1 million donation. Similarly, his account of the involvement of Sir Patrick Neill, the new chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, is partial. Far from willingly publishing the latter's advice, as Mr Blair implied yesterday, Sir Patrick had to press Downing Street for the release of the exchange of letters after a misleading version



Tony Blair and Sir Patrick Neill, who had to put pressure on Downing Street to release an exchange of letters

had been presented by official spokesmen.

But these are now footnotes. The real question is how parties can raise money without creating conflicts of interest when they are in office. The potential problems have been aggravated by a shift in the sources of political funds. Big companies have been giving less money to the Tories, while the Blair leadership has been keen to reduce Labour's dependence on the trade unions. This has meant raising more from wealthy individuals and businessmen, who provided as much as £15 million in total for Labour in the nine months up to the election. This also reflected the belief of Mr Blair and his advisers that Labour has unfairly suffered in the past from being "outsized" by the Tories. In particular, more has been

spent on highly skilled staff rather than on posters and advertising. There is little evidence that often exaggerated differences in levels of spending make nearly as much difference as party insiders pretend.

More important is whether private donations on the scale made by the likes of Mr Ecclestone secure access and influence. The Tories have always pretended that such conflicts do not exist. But after the allegations of the past few years, the public will not take such assurances on trust.

The Government has admittedly done more than the Tories ever did, in proposing a Bill in the current session requiring disclosure of the names of donors of more than £5,000

and a ban on foreign donations. And Mr Blair has asked the Neill committee to look into the funding of parties (though he should have consulted the committee's terms of reference). He leaves no doubt in the article on this page of his desire for tight controls on contributions and spending, leading to far-reaching changes in our party system. But there is a danger of putting an excessive load on Sir Patrick's committee.

First, Mr Blair was wrong to ask Sir Patrick to advise on the Ecclestone donation. Lord Nolan, Sir Patrick's predecessor, always insisted that the committee's job was to examine how existing procedures work and to recommend changes, rather than to consider individual cases. Some members of the committee think it is

a mistake to blur the rule-making and implementing functions. Sir Patrick was put in an impossible position since no one else was available to provide such guidance. This is outside the remit of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, while successive Cabinet Secretaries have suffered from advising ministers on such matters. In the event, Sir Patrick provided sensible and robust advice (fortunately, given that he did not know the size of the donation). But his committee should consider whether to set up a small, independent Office of Government Ethics, as in America, to advise on such ethical conflicts and interpretation of the Ministerial Code.

Secondly, the answer to charges about influence-peddling is disclosure. The Government could consult quickly on this in time for the Bill in the current session. For instance, not only the source but also the size of donations of more than £5,000 should be named within a month of being made. There are problems of definition — for instance, to cover front organisations — but the wider the disclosure the better.

These questions could be dealt with separately from the longer-term study of party funding. This is complicated enough, and all the committee should perhaps attempt is to take evidence and clarify the options, and their pitfalls, leaving the politicians to determine such inherently controversial matters as caps on donations and national expenditure and state funding.

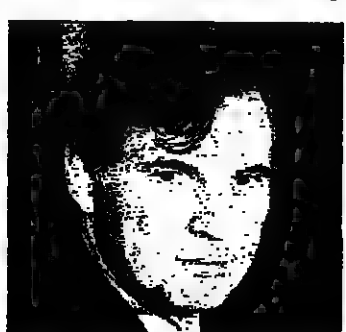
The Ecclestone affair has shaken, but not so far irreparably damaged, public trust in Mr Blair. The puzzle is why it took the Prime Minister and his close advisers so long to recognise its seriousness. Something went wrong in Downing Street last week. Underlying this is the deeper, underlying problem of adjusting from the informality of Opposition to the more demanding standards of Government. Mr Blair has started to regain the political initiative. But he needs to go further. Leaving it all to the Neill committee is not enough. The Government should act now to remove doubts over conflicts of interest and disclosure.

Seed's sprout

JONATHAN AITKEN is seeking salvation. I understand that the disgraced former Cabinet minister is considering converting to Rome. He has told friends that he plans to visit a retreat at a leading Roman Catholic public school with a view to taking instruction. Times are clearly turbulent for Aitken, who has lost his seat, his libel action and even his marriage. It was believed that he was seeking redemption amid the well-heeled happy-clappy set when he was spotted last month at the ultra-Protestant Holy Trinity Brompton, in Knightsbridge. He was said to be starting a ten-week course to tug up on "the principles of Christianity".

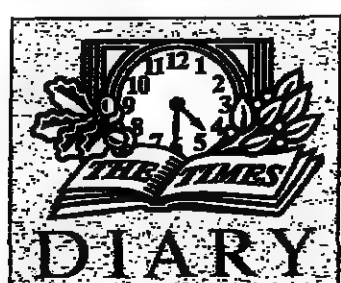
Instead, he might follow in the spiritual footsteps of his former colleagues Ann Widdecombe and John Gummer by heading off to Rome. The former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, once so bright and amusing, has been helped through his period of doubt by Lord Patten, the former Education Secretary.

It is thought that Aitken has held talks with Father Michael Seed, the mercurial ecumenical adviser to Cardinal Basil Hume. The good scout is becoming a celebrity figure, having signed up both Widdecombe and Gummer. He is also talking to Aitken's old friend, Alan Clark, about converting. After checking out a retreat centre at Ampleforth or Downside, Aitken might well become another "Seedling". I wish him well.



Aitken: when in Rome?

● HERE, high in *Diary Towers*, we have been trying to remember the last time that a Prime Minister used Chequers to give such a party-political TV interview. We assumed, naively, that the PM's country residence was intended for conducting matters of state and for



relaxation. John Major gave such interviews in his Huntingdon lounge (and believe me, it was a lounge). I just hope that Mr Blair cleared the broadcast with the Chequers trustees. Otherwise they might take a dim view.

Cameras roll

WHEN he peels off his polyester hipsters after the tour with the geriatric rollers, Mick Jagger will turn his raddled head to more lyrical lyrics. His firm, Jagged Films, plans a flick about Dylan Thomas. *The Map of Love* will focus on the poet's relationship with his wife, Caitlin, best described as boisterous. The script will also cover Thomas's notorious drinking bouts, not least his final plunge in New York in 1953, after which he

lapsed into a coma and died. Shooting will start in Wales next spring, while the director Christopher Monger chooses his cast. The leather Jagger could make a good Welsh shepherd.

● HOW to sell William Hague? This is the tricky question Frank magazine has set advertising agencies, including once so loyal Saatchi & Saatchi. Some suggestions were unhelpful. One has a snap of Hague above the slogan "the new Con. man". A hopeful effort states: "Unemployed single black lesbian mother? Come home to the New Conservatives." A design by Harrari Page will not appear: "It involved naked bodies and the heads of Hague and Ffion Jenkins." Sounds a winner.

Foot slogging

UNCOMFORTABLE with the capital and its new Labour mores, Michael Foot has thrown a quiet party to celebrate publication of his tribute to his hero, Nye Bevan. Tredegar, where the old Labour heart still beats in Bevan's South Wales constituency, has been in carnival mood on the centenary of Bevan's birth. "We've even had a laser spectacle," says Lew Smith, now MP there. Not that this could

entice Tony Blair. Says Lew: "He doesn't often call me these days."

● A CONVIVIAL haunt, *Pratt's*. The club has installed a chair lift to help members from the basement. Members are relieved. Macmillan often had to be helped from there. A geographical note: the basement is home to the bar.

Motor mouth

THAT car junkie Lord Montagu of Beaulieu discloses that he acquired



"Now, a party political apology by the Labour Party"

his first motor, a modest Hillman Minx, in a suspect manner. "It was a fiddle," he tells me. "It was 1947 and I was serving in Palestine. It was virtually impossible to buy a car on the home market. I said it was for export." He was believed, so he had his 21st birthday present. Now he favours models with more muscle: he wants a supercharged Daimler Super V8.

● EATING with Jeffrey Bernard was no more salubrious than drinking with him. "When entertained in Wheeler's by Francis Bacon, he fell asleep with his head in a plate of Dover sole," *Esquire* informs us. "As he woke for coffee other diners recall his piteous cry of 'Oh Christ, I've gone blind,' with tartare sauce covering his specs."

On the Social

THE MARCHIONESS of Milford Haven is on a shortlist having applied to become social editor of *Harpers & Queen* to replace Lady Celestria Noel. Before she married Milford Haven earlier this year, the marchioness, a mother-of-three, began her journalistic career with articles about the hardship of being too beautiful. The new job — attending parties, frating with dukes, looking pretty, that sort of



Heading for Harpers?

thing — will enable her to put her close chums, such as the Duchess of York, back into the social pages. The salary might be welcome by her husband, who sold his share in the family seat, Moyne Park, after life began to grow rather expensive a few years back...

JASPER GERARD



POISONED CHALICE

A well-intentioned law that could shackle the press

The imminent Bill to toughen the law on data protection, which the Government is required under European Union law to put on the statute book before next October, will appear to most people as a well-intentioned and necessary. The aim is to protect individuals' privacy by restricting the uses, including sale to third parties, to which companies and other bodies can put personal data banks. Data mines, as they are known in the trade, can be a menace. People object with reason when the paying of a utility bill results in a barrage of unsolicited leaflets peddling unrelated products and services, or when one gift to a charity leads to hundreds of envelopes from others. More seriously, people worry that information about them can be circulated without their consent to credit agencies or potential employers. But this legislation has a grave defect: unless its drafting is changed, it would inhibit huge areas of normal journalistic activity and bring a blanket law of press censorship.

The existing 1984 law already places some restrictions on data users who must be registered, operate within the terms of their registration and observe eight principles designed to protect personal data from abuse. It can be an offence, for example, to use their databases to market new businesses — which has already created problems for expanding companies. The 1995 EU Data Protection Directive of 1995 — which Britain is bound to implement although it voted against it — not only makes these restrictions much tougher: it gives "data subjects", those about whom information is held, explicit rights of access and control.

With exceptions for such areas as national security, criminal investigations or taxation, government and other data users will have to obtain the individual's "unambiguous" consent to hold or use paper or computer records on them. Where people have not themselves supplied the information, they must be told of its existence and will then have the right to see, correct or block its disclosure or use. There is a total ban on collecting "special categories" of information such as somebody's political or religious beliefs, ethnic origins or sex life, unless the person concerned has given "explicit consent".

All this may sound totally unobjectionable. But *The Times* is by no means engaged in special pleading when it cautions against the law of unintended consequences. Like the law of privacy which the Government has rightly rejected, these rights could easily be abused by those with money and lawyers and something to hide to silence all press investigation of their activities.

Consider what this law would mean in practice. Under Article 7, reporters would have to tell somebody that he was being in-

vestigated — and obtain his consent to collecting the facts. Under Articles 10 and 11, they would be obliged to notify the person of his right to see what information they held: such a right would betray the confidentiality of sources, including whistle-blowers. And under Article 14, that person could obtain a legal injunction blocking its publication. This would amount to prior censorship.

It is not only investigative journalism that would become a legal minefield. A generally uncontroversial media service, the compiling of obituaries, could fall foul of the clause prohibiting the collection of information on opinions, beliefs and origins. And although EU governments are allowed under Article 9 to make exemptions to the law for journalism or literature, this is only so far as they consider "necessary to reconcile the right to privacy with the rules governing freedom of expression". Through the EU side-door, this would usher in the privacy law which the Blair Government has rightly rejected.

The first and laudable instinct of Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office minister responsible, was to give the media a general exemption. But following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, a Government fearful of being seen to be soft on the press backtracked. Home Office officials are now drafting exemptions for each article. It is imperative that exemptions be framed in the broadest of terms, that they entrench in all cases a public interest defence, and that they remove all possibility of pre-publication "gagging" injunctions.

But even then, anything short of a blanket exemption can offer no more than the freedom to "publish and be damned", with the prospect of court battles to determine the admissibility, case by case, of a public interest defence. A better method would be that of Finland, which exempts the media under Article 9 from all restrictions on the unpublished material they hold on file. To prevent this data ending up in the wrong hands, the media must satisfy the data protection ombudsman that their internal data protection systems are secure. But because the need to protect sources is recognised, they do not have to disclose what information they store.

As with privacy legislation, the Government's first thoughts were its best. Tony Blair should weigh carefully the fear of Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, that this law "would destroy journalism" in this country. A blanket exemption might not be popular, but only because its purpose would not be well understood. Mr Blair should reflect that the alternative could be worse than unpopular. This Government's principled commitment to freedom of information is here subjected to a critical test.

SORRY NOW

Blair and Labour need to learn the right lessons

A honeymoon of such length and intensity was bound to end in acrimony. Tony Blair was right to face the cameras at Chequers yesterday and wise to start with an apology. His appearance was a recognition of the damage that the Ecclestone affair had done to his Government. He noted that, in the wider scheme of things, the future of Formula One was a modest issue. That is true but it does not make it irrelevant. The Profumo affair, Westlands and "cash for questions" were not at the centre of British public policy either. They all had an impact on the Prime Minister associated with them.

However, Mr Blair's apology was less than absolute. Indeed at times — when he declared himself "furious", "hurt" and "upset" — he appeared to demand contrition from others in return. The Prime Minister declined to say sorry for either the decision to take the money or the process that led to it. On the former, he is on reasonable ground, on the latter he is far less certain.

The meeting with Mr Ecclestone at Downing Street was inevitably going to raise eyebrows. This is not because the new ethical climate makes it impossible for major donors to meet ministers. If the existence and scale of Mr Ecclestone's support had been public knowledge, then far less concern would have been forthcoming.

The Prime Minister had few qualms in disowning his party's presentational failures. He conceded that the manner in which information had "dribbled out" had

spawned unnecessary suspicion. It is, though, only part of the story. The various strands of this saga have not only been released slowly and with reluctance but the content was incomplete and at times contradictory. This continues to be true despite the Prime Minister's efforts.

The means by which British politics is financed has certainly caused much concern over the past decade. In his interview yesterday and on our pages opposite, Mr Blair makes plain his preference for a radical overhaul of the system. Much of what he outlines will strike many people as reasonable. Sir Patrick Neill, though, is right to stress the importance of all-party agreements. An exclusive regime of state funding has attracted relatively little enthusiasm. A fixed limit on individual donations may prove difficult to administer. Some sort of overall ceiling on what parties may spend in the course of the election campaign might emerge as the option worth exploration.

Mr Blair has decided to lead from the front in the effort to put the Ecclestone affair behind him. If no further revelations surface soon, then he may succeed in doing so. It is important that the Prime Minister learns the appropriate lessons from this drama. These should centre on really fundamental issues about the way Downing Street interacts with the rest of Whitehall. They are not primarily about an unduly cynical press, a poor public relations strategy, or the precise structure of current party funding practice.

BUTLER POWER

Paul Burrell is the best man to select the Diana memorial

No man is a hero to his valet. No, nor no princess either a heroine to her butler. But butlers and valets are the unsung and offstage heroes. That is their function. They are among the select few to be admitted to the private reality behind the public masks of ceremony and razzmatazz. So the appointment of Paul Burrell to serve on the Diana Memorial Committee is a rare instance of life imitating art. For once the butler is being consulted officially rather than behind the scenes. Jeeves would have approved.

For ten years Mr Burrell was the butler and confidant of the late Princess of Wales. She described him as her rock, and said, for once with more realism than romance: "He is the only man I can trust." He was the only outsider, not a member of her family, to attend her burial at Althorp. In recognition of his devotion, last week he was invested with the Royal Victorian Medal. Now he has been appointed to the committee of ten to

choose a permanent memorial for the Princess. Announcing that the committee was being set up, Tony Blair said that it would look at ways of "taking forward some of the causes she held dear".

But this is a problematic assignment. The committee will work with the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, which has received millions of pounds. In addition, the Government is going to hand over more than £2.5 million in VAT receipts earned from Elton John's top of all pops *Candle in the Wind* record. Ministers have received many thousands of letters suggesting how Diana should be commemorated. So whatever is decided is bound to disappoint many and be controversial to most.

In these circumstances of high emotion above stairs, the Government is following wise precedents of fact, folklore and fiction. When in doubt, consult the butler as the discreet insider who really knows.

Ecclestone refund and party sleaze

From Mr John Stott

Sir, Mr Bernie Ecclestone tells us, in his letter of November 14, that he made a donation to the Labour Party because he believed "Mr Blair to be a person of exceptional ability who, if free to act, would do an outstanding job for our country".

Surely he now sees that he is entitled to his money back. Every last penny.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. STOTT,
Black House, Coppenhall, Stafford.
jcs@blackhouse.demon.co.uk
November 14.

From Mr John Warne

Sir, Would Mr Bernie Ecclestone and Mr Max Mosley have had the privilege of putting their case for special treatment personally to the Prime Minister on October 16 if he had not given the Labour Party £1 million or so earlier this year?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WARNE,
16 Carlton Mews,
Wells, Somerset.
November 14.

From Mr Howard Leigh

Sir, The disclosure by Bernie Ecclestone of an annual personal tax bill of £27 million implies an income of some £68 million. Presumably all or most of that is deemed to be essentially from Formula One racing.

The accounts of his Formula One Promotions and Administration Ltd shows directors' remuneration of some £55 million. In Mr Ecclestone's special pleadings to the Prime Minister one would hope the point was made to him that the industry could survive happily if such huge sums were not extracted for personal benefit.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD LEIGH
(Director),
Cavendish Corporate Finance Ltd,
12 Cavendish Place, W1.
November 14.

From Mr Denis Meehan

Sir, Your leader, "Disillusion day" (November 14), strikes me as grossly unfair. The Labour Party in opposition voluntarily adopted a procedure of disclosing the names of individuals and companies donating sums in excess of £5,000, a procedure which it carried over into government. This in itself was a powerful disincentive to corruption and influence-peddling.

The Conservative Party, by contrast, remains secretive about donors. To suggest equivalence of secrecy and sleaze between the two parties is simply not credible.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS MEEHAN,
238 Upper Richmond Road, SW15.
November 14.

From Mr John Urwin

Sir, By offering to return Bernie Ecclestone's donation the Labour Party has shown that it will put the country's exports and highly skilled engineering jobs ahead of party funding.

Giving Formula One time to find alternative sponsors shows that the party has a grasp of reality lamentably lacking amongst the chattering classes, who would be advised to move on to a more interesting story.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN URWIN (engineer),
1 Newlands Close,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.
hy26@ial.pipex.com
November 14.

From Mr Roger Hicks

Sir, I, too, feel I have fared well under the current Government. I wonder whether Sir Patrick Neill would instruct the Treasury to repay to me the taxes I have contributed since the election. In order to avoid any allegations of sleaze.

Yours etc,
ROGER HICKS,
68 Deer Park Drive,
Arnold, Nottingham.
November 14.

From Mr Hugh Long

Sir, I suggest a new rival to the euro: the high-denomination Bernie, with its unique distinction of being refundable.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH LONG,
67 Dartmouth Park Road, NWS.
November 15.

Fair enough?

From Mrs Mary Beard

Sir, My father, who was for many years an engineer and administrator with the South Indian railway, used to recount with great admiration the story of a local magistrate who had an enviable reputation for fair-mindedness. When asked how he had achieved this, the magistrate is said to have replied:

I always accepted the bribes offered from both sides, then I would consider the case on its merits and return the bribe to the side which I found against.

Yours faithfully,
MARY BEARD,
Dromard House,
Kesh, Co Fermanagh.
November 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Nolan or Downey: whose rules apply to MPs' conduct?

From Professor Anthony King

Sir, The House of Commons will be debating on Monday the Standards and Privileges Committee's report on the Neil Hamilton affair. As a member of the former Nolan committee I must say there seems to be considerable confusion about the original Nolan recommendations and the procedure subsequently adopted by the House committee.

The Nolan committee's report in 1995 envisaged a three-stage process when accusations of misconduct were brought against MPs. The independent Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards would first investigate and decide whether there was a case to answer. If he concluded there was, it would be heard by a special sub-committee of the Standards and Privileges Committee. If the sub-committee found against the member, he or she could appeal to the full committee (and ultimately to the House).

No one would be on trial; but the rough analogy the Nolan committee had in mind was Crown Prosecution Service, court of first instance, appeal court.

The Commons in 1995 adopted the broad Nolan approach, but the Standards and Privileges Committee in the last Parliament decided against setting up a special sub-committee. Instead, in the case of Mr Hamilton

and the 24 other MPs, it decided that the Parliamentary Commissioner should function, on the rough judicial analogy, as both investigating magistrate and court of first instance.

Sir Gordon Downey's terms of reference were precise. He was asked to inquire into allegations of misconduct against Mr Hamilton and others "with a view to establishing whether there had been any breach of House of Commons rules, in the letter or in the spirit". The House committee agreed in detail the procedures Sir Gordon was to follow.

Sir Gordon subsequently concluded that there had indeed been a breach of the rules. So far as I can make out, he did not exceed the brief given to him by the committee in the old House and has not, at any rate publicly, been accused of so doing: nor is it suggested that there was any material defect in the procedure he followed.

Given what has happened since, it seems to me, speaking only for myself, not for the members of what is now the Neil committee, that the House and the Standards and Privileges Committee need to decide how they want to operate in future. They can either revert to the procedures originally envisaged by Nolan (and be prepared on occasion to conduct lengthy and detailed investigations), or they can regularise the position they have adopted in the Hamilton

case and others, that the Parliamentary Commissioner conducts a detailed investigation and comes to firm conclusions.

In the latter case, the committee would presumably exercise a broadly "judicial review" function and reject the Parliamentary Commissioner's report only if his procedures had been seriously flawed or his findings manifestly unsafe and unsatisfactory.

The committee in the Hamilton case has, in effect, followed the latter of the two procedures. It has clearly concluded that Sir Gordon Downey's procedures were not seriously flawed and his findings not unsafe and unsatisfactory. But for some reason it has been reluctant to say in so many words that it has performed this kind of judicial review function — an omission that leaves it and the commissioner in an ambiguous and unsatisfactory position.

Certainly the committee seems to hold that view. As it says in its report, it now needs "to assess its own role in relation to inquiries conducted by the commissioner". In my view, it should undertake that assessment as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY KING,
The Mill House, Middle Green,
Wakes Colne, Colchester, Essex.
November 14.

Action on climate change is essential

From the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions

Sir, I find it amazing that Bronwen Maddox ("Europe should learn from US stance on tackling pollution", *Business*, November 13) questions the need for action on climate change. Governments across the world, including President Clinton's Administration, accept that it is potentially one of the most serious global problems we face. I could take issue with many of the other points which Ms Maddox raises. Let me restrict myself to three.

First, as was clear from my press briefing after I met Vice-President Gore in Washington last week, the UK has not "derailed" the US position on climate change. Indeed, I welcomed the President's proposal and recognised the difficult domestic political situation that he and the Vice-President face.

At the same time I made clear that we and our European colleagues would like to see more from the US. In particular, if we want the poor developing countries to play a bigger role in the way that the US Congress is pressing for, the rich developed countries must do better than simply delay by 10 years the promises we made at Rio.

Second, action on climate change need not harm economic growth. President Clinton has rightly pointed to the job opportunities that his proposed measures will create in the United States. Action in Britain will lead to a better transport system, better insulated homes, healthier cities

and a more energy efficient industry.

Third, I agree that flexible mechanisms, which give credit for action by developed countries in developing countries, can play a useful part. But, as President Clinton himself again recognises, domestic action is also necessary. At present the average American is responsible for 25 times more emissions than the average Indian. That gap is not sustainable in the long term if globalisation is to lead to a better and fairer world for all.

Climate change cannot be dealt with, as Ms Maddox suggests, simply by "waiting and seeing" the harmful effects of global warming and "building walls round Bangladesh". It threatens all of us with future droughts, floods and crop losses that have the potential for massive human and financial misery.

That is why the UK Government, together with our European colleagues, is working so hard for constructive agreement at Kyoto next month. That is why I am about to embark on a second major foreign tour to prepare the ground for the conference. The strong political will shown by developed countries at the preparatory meeting I chaired in Tokyo last week encourages me to think that agreement can be reached. The world needs such an agreement, and it will be even more important for our children than it will be for us.

Contacts with Iraq

From the Director-General of the International School of Geneva

Sir, If the British Government still has a policy towards Iraq I hope those who are responsible for it will have read Simon Jenkins's excellent article of November 12, "Exploding the myth" (*Letters*, November 14).

I have seen the effects in Baghdad of economic sanctions and of so-called clinical strikes. Jenkins is right to conclude that neither can be justified on moral or pragmatic grounds.

His "contact strategy" offers a radical alternative, which is why this school continues to maintain contact, despite all the logistical difficulties, with Baghdad International School, set up by the United Nations in the early Eighties.

It is a pity that a new Foreign Secretary has failed to reflect on the psychology of isolation and missed the opportunity to rethink a discredited policy that has achieved exactly the opposite effect of that intended.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WALKER,
Director-General,
The International School of Geneva,
62 route de Chêne,
1208 Geneva,
November 14.

I bank, therefore . . .

From Mr Michael Pollard

Sir, Mrs Irene Draper (letter, November 5; see also letters, November 8) should follow the example of a dear family friend (now long departed) who, on reaching a certain age, received a letter requiring "proof of existence" from her insurance company.

Her response was that she had no intention of wasting people's time asking for letters proving her continued existence, but if they felt her letter was insufficient proof and decided to stop paying her annuity she would have pleasure in meeting them in court over the matter.

She had no further problem.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL POLLARD,
2 Victoria Park Road, Exeter, Devon.
November 8.

From Mr Leonard Harrington

Sir, Some years ago, when living abroad, a friend had his car stolen. When the insurance company asked could he prove the vehicle was stolen he sent them a photograph of his empty garage.

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD HARRINGTON,
38 Lovelace Road, Surbiton, Surrey.
November 15.

From Mr W. D. Cormie

Sir, It is for Mrs Draper's bankers to furnish proof of her existence. After all, it is they who have her money.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. CORMIE,
Dix's Black Hill,
Lindfield, West Sussex.

Coping with Christmas

From Mr R. F. Mountjoy

Sir, Surely the appropriate date for a day-long seminar for people who can't cope with Christmas ("Cool Yule tips", in brief, November 12) is December 25.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD MOUNTJOY,
21 Whittingham Gardens,
Brighton, East Sussex.
November 12.

Seeing stars

From Mr R. W. Mellor, Feng

Sir, Flag topsy-turvy (letter, November 14)? Today's topical tip: toggle to the top.

R. W. MELLOR,
The Red House, West Hanningfield,
Chelmsford, Essex.
November 15.

Opera crisis

From Mr Alberto Remedios

Sir, The solution to the current opera crisis (letters, November 5 & 12, 15) is not to merge the three companies but to sweep away their managements in a great purge, to be replaced by people who appreciate the worth of British singers, British musicians and British directors, designers and technicians.

When Sadler's Wells Opera — of which I had been a member since 1955 — moved to the London Coliseum in 1968, we were of course rivals to the Royal Opera; but no one thought of it that way. I was a guest artist with Covent Garden and had a contract with Sadler's Wells/ENO; and it was from the latter that many young British singers, like myself, were taken up by the Royal Opera.

In those days British singers were employed in major opera houses all over the world, where the best of them

are still in great demand. Where they cannot be seen so often is on the stages in their own country, on which — due chiefly to mismanagement and the lack of funds for training — they are often replaced by "international" artists of dubious talent.

The management of both the ROH and ENO should have been more financially prudent. They should not have accepted their large salaries and committed their organisations to unnecessary overheads — advisers, assistants, assistants' assistants and whizzkid directors with a free reign to squander as much taxpayers' money as they liked on audience-losing stage productions.

Would that at least some of all this money had been put into the training of young artists.

Yours faithfully,
ALBERTO REMEDIOS,
27 The Ridgeway, Southgate, N14.
November 15.

Turkish question

From Mr Kenneth Morgan

Sir, When the International Federation of Journalists Congress met in Istanbul in 1972 the first four speakers on press freedom, all Turkish, predictably and prudently relied heavily on Kemal Ataturk for inspiration and quotation (letters, November 10, 13).

Speaking fifth, on the "when in Rome" principle, I managed to dredge up and drag in one Ataturk sentiment. The sixth speaker, the president of the American Newspaper Guild, Charles A. Ferlik III, began briskly, to warm applause: "As that great democrat and lover of liberty Thomas Ataturk Jefferson once said . . ."

Yours etc,
KENNETH MORGAN
(General secretary, National Union of Journalists, 1970-77),
151 Overhill Road, Dulwich, SE22.
November 14.

Human Rights Bill

From Professor Emeritus Philip S. James

Sir, I noted with dismay the view expressed by the Editor of *FT Business Law Europe* (letter, November 10) that the judiciary should be allowed the final say about claims to "human rights".

Respectfully, I beg to differ. I feel that to take such a course would be to draw the judiciary more than is absolutely necessary into the political arena. And it would certainly deprive the public of such little say as they still enjoy in relation to the conduct of their own affairs through the arbitration of Parliament. Surely the crux of this argument is this: whether, with Lincoln, we still believe that the voice of the people should continue to be heard, or whether we choose to replace the divine right of kings with the infallibility of judges.

Do our vociferous libertarians never stop to think how often liberties can be self-defeating?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP S. JAMES,
Chestnut View,
Mill Lane, Whitfield,
Brackley, Northamptonshire.
November 11.

Business letters, page 50
Sport letters, page 39

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

OBITUARIES

Georges Marchais, Secretary-General of the French Communist Party, 1972-94, died yesterday aged 77. He was born on June 7, 1920.

Georges Marchais had the unenviable fate of leading the French Communists during a period of steady decline in their popular support. In his efforts to combat the growing ascendancy of the Socialists, he conducted policy through a series of U-turns which bewildered his own rank-and-file and drew derision from his critics. First, in 1972, he formed an alliance with the Socialist Party (PS), but then broke with it in 1977-78 and moved the Communist Party (PCF) back into isolation.

When the Socialists won power in 1981, he accepted PCF participation in their Government while surreptitiously still working to undermine them; then in 1984 he pulled the party out of the Government. When Mikhail Gorbachev took power in Moscow, Marchais paid lip-service to perestroika but did nothing to apply it within PCF ranks. Whereas in the 1970s he had sometimes appeared as a "liberal" wishing to democratise the party, he later stuck to a hard conservative position and rejected all attempts at reform. This bluff proletarian showed in public an almost comical pugnacity, which helped to make him into a national television star. But though a wily political opera-

tor, he lacked either intellectual gifts or any real statesman-like vision.

Marchais was born in Normandy, at La Houque near Falaise, his father was a quarryman and his mother from a Roman Catholic peasant family. He did poorly at school, where he is said to have developed an inferiority complex that was to mark him for life. His early adult years today remain cloaked in mystery. He certainly never joined the Resistance, and in 1942 he went to work as an aircraft mechanic at a Messerschmitt plant near Augsburg. There is some evidence that he went voluntarily — far from being deported, as was later claimed — and his political enemies made much of this distinctly unheroic war record.

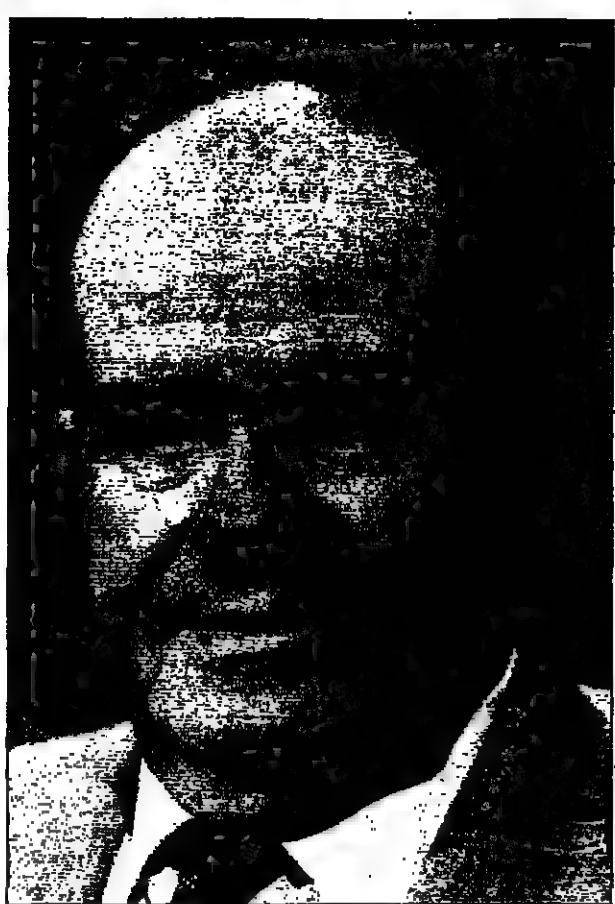
He did not join the PCF until the relatively late age of 27. Soon he was active in the Communist-led trade union, CGT. Here he was spotted by Maurice Thorez, the PCF leader, who trained him and put him into the party apparatus, where he took to bureaucracy as a duck to water. He rose rapidly, becoming Organising Secretary in 1961. And when in 1969 the Secretary-General, Waldeck Rochet, fell seriously ill, Marchais effectively took charge of the party.

It was under the influence of two senior colleagues, Jean Kanaris and Charles Fiterman, that in 1972 he opted for the path of liberalising the PCF's image, of loosening its allegiance to Moscow and moving it closer to the PS. So he signed the Joint Pro-

gramme of alliance with the then still fragile PS, believing that the PCF could safely dominate it. He pledged a new, fully democratic party that would accept the principle of alternation of power. He formed close links with the Italian Communist leader Enrico Berlinguer, thus launching the vogue for a "Euro-Communism" separate from Moscow. He grew openly critical of the Soviet Union on such issues as human rights, and in 1976 presided over a PCF Congress that jettisoned the key Marxist concept of the "dictatorship of the proletariat".

The Joint Programme worked smoothly for a while, until the Communists realised that it was benefiting the Socialists more than themselves. So in 1977, urged on by the Stalinists in his ranks, Marchais made the boldest of his U-turns: he virtually broke off the alliance. His motives? Above all he was afraid of the PCF entering a Government of the Left as the weaker partner, and of its being obliged to acquiesce in "social democratic" policies. The result of the breach was that the Left lost the 1978 elections, which hitherto it had seemed set to win.

This caused dismay among those of the party rank-and-file who felt that their leaders had robbed them of victory. Some "dissident" liberals resigned in disgust, or they were pushed out by Marchais, who now led the party firmly back into its "ghetto" of domestic isolation and rebuilt his bridges with the Soviet Union. On a visit to



Moscow in January 1980 he publicly backed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. At home, he repeatedly sniped at the Socialists under Mitterrand, accusing them of shifting the right.

He pursued this theme as PCF candidate in the presidential election campaign of April

1981. But it rebounded against him. He polled a mere 15.4 per cent, much the lowest Communist score since the war — a clear sign that his erratic tactics were alienating part of his own electorate.

After Mitterrand formed his Socialist Government, Marchais and his colleagues felt that they had little choice but to accept his offer of PCF posts in it. But they remained warily critical partners and in 1984 they withdrew from it, angered by Mitterrand's policy shifts towards the centre. Marchais declared that he had made a mistake in ever trusting the Socialists.

After this, he held the party to a hard Stalinist line, and managed to thwart all efforts by Charles Fiterman, Pierre Juquin and other reformers to introduce a more open, modern and democratic structure, on the Italian Communist model. The result was a continued erosion of PCF fortunes: in the 1988 general election it polled only 11 per cent, and by 1993 its support had fallen below 10 per cent. For this Marchais was continually criticised within his own ranks, and repeated attempts were made to oust him, but they failed.

When communism was overthrown in Eastern Europe in 1989-90, Marchais tried artfully to parade as a champion of reform: "I feel very close to Gorbachev," he said in January 1990, and he claimed that he had been "duped" by the hardline Communist leaders in the East. But his failure to act on these lessons lost him yet more credibility. His political cynicism had never inspired confidence: now it did so less than ever.

And yet, amazingly, in December 1990 he was unanimously re-elected party leader. He had managed to surround himself with loyal apparatchiks, his grip on the party

machine was tight, and he was always an astute manipulator. This enabled him to overcome even stiff dissent. He himself had no clear ideology, save an instinct for his own survival, which he equated with that of the party. He was, it is true, a staunch French patriot, with nationalistic views on such matters as defence. But he saw no incompatibility between this and his belief that the PCF, domestically isolated, had need of the firm support of Moscow.

After 1981 he was seemingly reconciled to the view that the PCF's own electoral decline was irreversible, that power would not come via the ballot-box, and that therefore the best strategy was to consolidate a secure, if narrow, working-class base and to wait for eventual victory via the steady global expansion of the Soviet Union and the slow but sure death of capitalism.

Marchais' personality did not make him ideally suited to leading the PCF during this difficult period. In public he had a show-off, histrionic manner, especially in TV debates, where he would fly into feigned rages and parade brazen untruths. This provocative spectacle won him high TV ratings — higher even than soccer matches. But it also made him faintly ridiculous. With his square jaw, bushy eyebrows and staring eyes, he had the air of a man with a knife between his teeth.

But behind this ebullient facade he was really a timid individual, frequently feeling under threat and thus reacting

aggressively. He feared and disliked intellectuals; unlike previous PCF leaders such as Thorez, he was a philistine, ill at ease with ideas. Certainly he could identify with his own working class, its travails and aspirations; but he lacked the ability to communicate with the educated middle classes, and this proved a limitation.

Marchais, for all his faults, was by no means the frigid bureaucrat he was jovial among his cronies, kind to his true friends, and capable of generous impulse and sincere emotion, to the point of sentimentality — sometimes he would weep in public. He adored jolly crowds and blaring music, beer and wine festivals, and his pleasures and interests were those of the true French working man — football and la chasse, comic strips and popular love-songs.

In an ordinary job, he would probably have proved a likeable, respected, easygoing comrade. But the ruthless world of higher party politics brought out the worst in him. He will go into history as one of the less effective of Europe's postwar left-wing leaders. He stepped down as leader of the PCF in January 1994, handing over to Robert Hue, who has tried to steer a more modern and moderate course.

Georges Marchais was twice married. He had three daughters by his first wife, Paulette Nostringer, whom he married in 1941 and from whom he was divorced, and a son by his second, Liliane Grelot, whom he married in 1977.

LADY TRYON

Lady Tryon, society hostess and dress designer, died from septicaemia in hospital in London on November 15 aged 49. She was born in Melbourne on January 3, 1948.

A COLOURFUL ornament to English society for more than two decades, Dale "Kanga" Tryon was a woman of great spirit and determination. She needed — and showed — those qualities in extra measure in the last years of her life, as a succession of illnesses and misfortunes turned her from a darling of the gossip columns into an object of almost morbid fascination. Her private battles of the 1990s — first with recurrence of the spinal bifida she had suffered as a child; then with uterine cancer; then with paralysis after a fall — were all bravely fought in the full glare of media attention.

The public interest was explained by her role as a longstanding friend and confidante of the Prince of Wales, who was widely and frequently quoted as having called her "the only woman who really understands me". It was he who gave her the nickname Kanga — a name which stuck and which was later to provide the label for her dress collection — and after her marriage to Lord Tryon, one of his oldest friends, he became the godfather to their first son.

An accomplished hostess, Lady Tryon managed for many years to combine a hectic social life in London and Wiltshire with a career as a fashion designer and a mother of four. She was also active on the charity circuit, serving for a time as vice-chairman of the mental health charity SANE; Prince Charles once played in a polo match to help her to raise funds.

Dale Elizabeth Harper, as she was before her marriage, was born with a mild form of spinal bifida and was unable to walk until she was nine. She spent three years in hospital, and her father, a wealthy Australian publisher, built a special bed for her so that she could be wheeled around.

Resolutely courageous even from an early age, by the time

she was ten she had thrown away her canisters and crutches and was walking unaided — even riding horses. She was, however, to suffer from back pain all her life, and in later years would have a number of operations to rebuild her spine.

She first met Prince Charles at a teenage dance in Melbourne, while he was a temporary pupil at the Geelong Grammar School in 1966. She was not to meet him again until she came to England to be "finished" in the early 1970s. She worked for a time in London as a PR for the Qantas airline and as an assistant at *Woman's Weekly* magazine.

While in London, she was introduced to one of Prince Charles's friends, Anthony Tryon. A merchant banker almost ten years her senior, son of the Keeper of the Privy Purse and himself a former page of honour to the Queen, he was known by his friends as "Lord Ummum" for the way he would finish his sentences. When Dale Harper returned to Australia, he followed and asked for her hand.

They were married in 1973 at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace. Their first child, a daughter, was born the year after their marriage. A son, whose godfather was the Prince of Wales, followed two years later. Twins were born at the end of the decade.

The family remained a base in London, but the children were brought up in a fairly modest house on the 2,000-acre Tryon estate at Great Durnford in Wiltshire. Later, thanks in no small part to Lady Tryon's enterprise, they were able to move back into the ancestral home, a large Queen Anne manor house which had had to be let out as a girls' school.

Lord Tryon worked for the merchant bank Lazards. In the early 1980s Lady Tryon, not content with the role of weekend wife in the country, used £2,000 of her savings to open a London dress shop, which she called Kanga, in Beauchamp Place, off Knightsbridge. Some of the dresses she stocked — one size, non-crushable, drip-dry, flouncy creations — were inspired by her own busy life-



style, which involved frequent flights to visit her family in Australia. Selling what Lady Tryon called "outfits for women with real figures, not six-foot models", the shop was a success, and in 1985 its own design label was launched, also called Kanga.

What had started as a hobby turned into a thriving international business, with an annual turnover of more

than £1 million. Despite often excruciating back pain, Lady Tryon found herself travelling constantly between Hong Kong and Italy and New York, visiting other branches of her company.

She also developed a lucrative sideline, buying, converting and selling London property. Then, after her husband had lost his job as a director of Lazards, she be-

came the chief financial support of her family.

Lady Tryon remained close to Prince Charles throughout his bachelor days, and was even said to have vetted his girlfriends, assessing their suitability as potential royal brides. A shared passion for fly-fishing continued to provide a link after the Prince's marriage in 1981, and the Princess of Wales was among Lady Tryon's fashionable customers.

Lady Tryon, not normally reclusive, remained notably loyal and discreet when the strains in the royal marriage began to become known. There were those, however, who thought that she resented the prominence of Camilla Parker Bowles in Prince Charles's life, particularly after his divorce, and who accused her of making too much of her own closeness to the Prince, which belonged largely to the past.

By then, however, she had more serious troubles than gossip to contend with. In 1992 she went through several gruelling operations to rebuild the top of her spine with cow bones. Shortly afterwards it was discovered that she had uterine cancer which had spread to her kidneys. She fought courageously and was eventually given the all-clear.

In 1996, however, she was admitted to Farm Place, a private rehabilitation clinic near Dorchester, apparently to recuperate from exhaustion and depression. There she suffered a fall from an upper window which left her with a broken back and fractured skull; she was subsequently confined to a wheelchair.

In June of this year she was detained for 28 days under the Mental Health Act and in July Lord Tryon applied for a High Court order banning her from the family estate. In September she was granted a decree nisi. The decree absolute hearing had been deferred at the time of Lady Tryon's death, which came after a skin graft operation, reportedly to repair bed sores sustained during a recent bout of alternative therapy in India.

Lord Tryon survives her with their two sons and two daughters.

DICK HALL

Richard Hall, journalist, died on November 14 aged 72. He was born on July 22, 1925.

IN THE days when *The Observer*, under its Editor David Astor, led the world in its coverage of foreign affairs, Dick Hall was one of its best correspondents. His territory was Africa, and he reported on it with knowledge, insight and passion.

A close friend of Kenneth Kaunda in Zambia, he launched a newspaper there in the late 1950s, and was the first Editor of the *Times of Zambia* after independence. He covered the troublespots of Africa, and prided himself on a number of notable scoops. He reported the vicious colonial war in the Congo in the early 1960s, and was there when Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was killed in an air crash in 1961. He was a passionate protagonist of the Biafrans, and was the last correspondent to leave before their flight for independence was lost. He drew on these experiences and his unbeatable network of contacts to write several books, and to launch an influential newsletter, *Africa Analysis*.

Richard Hall was born in Margate, where his father made a shaky living running boat-trips for holidaymakers before emigrating to Australia, where the boy was born, and shortly afterwards abandoned by both him and his mother. Hall's early years were spent on Bondi Beach, but when he was eight he and his mother, a strong and resourceful woman, returned to England.

Educated at Hastings Grammar School, he began his career on the *Evening Argus* in Sussex where he earned 7s 6d a week with 2s 6d bicycle allowance. He joined the Navy and did war service as a decoder in the Mediterranean, damaging his eyesight in the process. It was during this time that he met his first wife Barbara Taylor, a Wren from Derbyshire, also a decoder.

After leaving the Navy he went up to Keble College, Oxford, where among his friends were Kenneth Tynan



and Anthony Sampson. Later he joined the *Daily Mail*, where he worked with Derek Ingram, but found domestic reporting restricting.

Having a strong entrepreneurial streak, and a spirit of adventure, he went out to Northern Rhodesia in 1955, where he ran some house magazines for the copper mines, before launching the *Central African Mail*, with help from David Astor who supplied a printing press. The paper was taken over after independence, but Hall, who by now was friendly with Kenneth Kaunda, became the Editor of the *Times of Zambia*. It was there that he came into contact with Tiny Rowland, who owned the paper.

In 1967 political pressures forced him to leave Zambia, and he returned to Britain to work for *The Observer*, where he stayed for 19 years as a foreign correspondent, covering not only African but Commonwealth news with distinction and courage. Hall had always asserted that during his time in Zambia Rowland had never interfered with

his editorial independence, so when he launched his controversial bid for ownership of *The Observer*, Hall supported him. He may have hoped to be editor, but the job was retained by Donald Treflow. Rowland may have found Hall's obstinate sense of independence a barrier.

Gradually, Hall began to believe that Rowland was not, after all, the ideal proprietor, and in 1986 he left to found *Africa Analysis*, which combines business and political expertise, and has gone on to become a great commercial success. He wrote several books, including a controversial account of his friendship with Rowland: *Lovers on the Nile*, and, last year, *Empires of the Monsoon*, a history of the Indian Ocean.

After his first marriage ended in divorce, he married again, to Carol Cantley, a former *Observer* journalist. They lived near Oxford, where Hall enjoyed gardening, reading poetry and listening to music.

He leaves his widow and the five sons of his first marriage.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Richard Bending, Vicar, Buckden (Ely); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Hall Weston (same diocese).
The Rev Elisabeth Boughton, formerly Chaplain, St Catherine's School, Bramley (Guildford); to be NSM Assistant Curate, Fitcham St Mary (same diocese).
The Rev Adele Chettle, with permission to officiate (Hereford); to be NSM Curate, Burghill and Stretton Sugwas (same diocese).
The Rev Richard Cooper, Vicar, Aldborough w Boroughbridge and Roedfield (Ripon); to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.
The Rev Andrew Duff, Team Vicar, Priestwood St Andrew, Breckford Team (Oxford); to be Chaplain to the Forces.
The Rev Philip Dykes, formerly Curate-in-Charge, Bishop Andrews St Helier (Winchester); to be Team Vicar, Camberley St Paul (Guildford).
The Rev Brian Gillett, formerly Rector, Kingsmead w Clapham and Eaton Bishop, Allensmore and Thrusdon (Hereford); to be Vicar,

Baltonborough w Butleigh and West Bradley (Bath & Wells).
The Rev Peter Haddleton, Team Vicar, Hereford South Wye Team (Hereford); to be Team Rector, same benefice.
The Rev Robin Harvey, Rector, East Harptree w West Harptree and Hinton Blewett (Bath & Wells); to be Chaplain, University of Surrey (Guildford).
The Rev Peter Howell-Jones, Assistant Curate, Walsall St Matthew (Lichfield); to be Vicar, Boldmere St Michael (Birmingham).
The Rev David Izzard, Curate, East Bristol (Bristol); to be Vicar, Sea Mills St Edyth (same diocese).
The Rev Simon Lloyd, with permission to officiate (Birmingham); to be Team Vicar, Solihull with special responsibility for Solihull St Michael (Birmingham).
The Rev Sheila Nunn, Assistant Curate, Caversham and Maplehurst (Oxford); to be Priest-in-Charge, Fitchampstead St James (same diocese).

The Rev Stephen Roberts, Vicar, Camberwell St George, and Warden, Trinity College Centre (Southwark); to be also Rural Dean of Camberwell (same diocese).
The Rev Graham Smith, Rector, Leeds Team (Ripon); to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.
The Rev Anne Stratford, NSM, Oswestry (Lichfield); to be Priest-in-Charge, Ford, and Albury w Cardston (Hereford).
The Rev Peter Swain, Priest-in-Charge, Bromfield, Waverton and Westnewton, and Rural Dean of Solway (Carlisle); to be Team Rector, Leominster (Hereford).
The Rev Peter Swales, Priest-in-Charge, Horsley (Derby); to be also Rural Dean of Hexon (same diocese).
The Rev Alan Taylor, Vicar, Leeds St Aidan (Ripon); to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.
The Rev Sally Vandyck, NSM, Chertsey St Peter (Guildford); to be

NSM Curate, Ross Team, and Lion Group (Hereford).
Retirements and resignations
The Rev Paul Barlow, NSM, Walford, Bishopswood, Goodrich, Marston and Welsh Bicknor (Hereford) resigned October 17, with permission to officiate (same diocese).
The Rev Peter Brightman, NSM Curate, Widcombe (Bath & Wells) resigned August 31 for health reasons.
The Rev Michael Duvall, NSM Curate, Selworthy, Timberscombe, Wootton Courtenay and Luccombe (Bath & Wells) retired September 30.
The Rev Peter East, Vicar, Wiveliscombe w Chipstable, Huish Champflower and Clawthorpe (Bath & Wells) resigned September 28.
The Rev John Yeend, Vicar, West Molesey (Guildford) retired October 31.
Other appointments
Mr Colin Sheppard, Deputy Chief Constable, Norfolk Constabulary, to be Diocesan Secretary (York).

DEVASTATION IN PAKISTAN

From Arnold Zeifitz
Over Bhola Island, Pakistan, Nov 16.
The devastation is virtually complete in the southern half of this battered island which took the full impact of last week's cyclone and tidal waves which, according to estimates, swept hundreds of thousands of people to their deaths. The relief commissioner in Dacca said today that according to an official confirmed count 32,871 people died as a result of the storm. But other officials made mention of a death toll of between 300,000 and 500,000.

Most bodies have been buried in mass graves. Survivors spotted from the air in the 800 sq. mile area hardest hit wandered on high ground above the water which still covered much of the flat land. Blood from crushed cattle stained the fields where their carcasses were flung. The survivors, having buried most of the dead themselves in an area where relief is still scarce, were seen dragging huge bloated cattle carcasses to

ON THIS DAY

November 17, 1970

A combination of cyclone and 20ft tidal waves swept peasants in East Pakistan to their deaths by the scores of thousands

from the aircraft it was possible to smell the odour of death, but the pilot said the situation had improved on that of two days ago when the small island made pilots vomit and then take sleeping pills after their flights over the area.

Water and wind had crushed an area in which Bengali farmers lived, clustered in tree-shaded communities with a density of 600 to a square mile. Most home sites remained, but corrugated iron roofs had fallen on the ground. The land is perfectly flat, much of it already dyked to prevent the sea from over-running it. Nothing was seen which could have blocked the 20ft tidal waves. There was no place anyone could have sought shelter. A whole village has disappeared as if sucked up by a huge vacuum cleaner, leaving only muddy outlines of house foundations. The enormous force of wind and water was seen clearly on a tiny island between Hatia and Bhola, where a cargo ship of 500 tons had been raised from sea and set upright on the shore 50 yards inland. No living person was seen on board.

NOVEMBER 17

RADIO & TV

Preview
BBC
23.00
Radio 4

OPINION

Poisoned chalice

The British
government
is not doing
enough to
protect the
environment

Sorry now

It is time to
stop the
government
from
wasting
money on
the
environment

Butler power

The
government
is not doing
enough to
protect the
environment

COLUMNS

TONY BLAIR

As I write
this, the
Prime Minister
is in
Paris for
the
World Cup
draw

PETER RIDDELL

It is time to
stop the
government
from
wasting
money on
the
environment

WILLIAM REES-MOORE

The
government
is not doing
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environment

OBITUARY

George Martin
was a
pioneer of
the
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industry

LETTER

Dear Sir,
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THE PAPER

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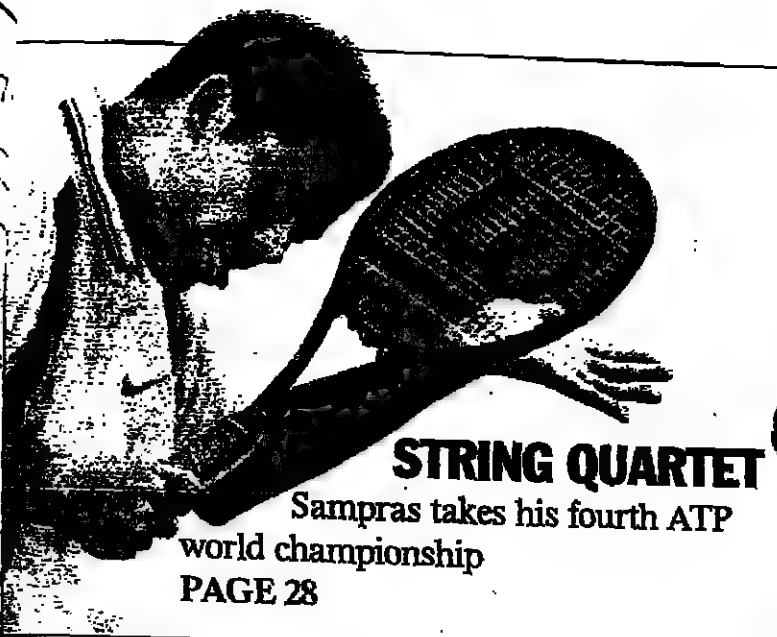
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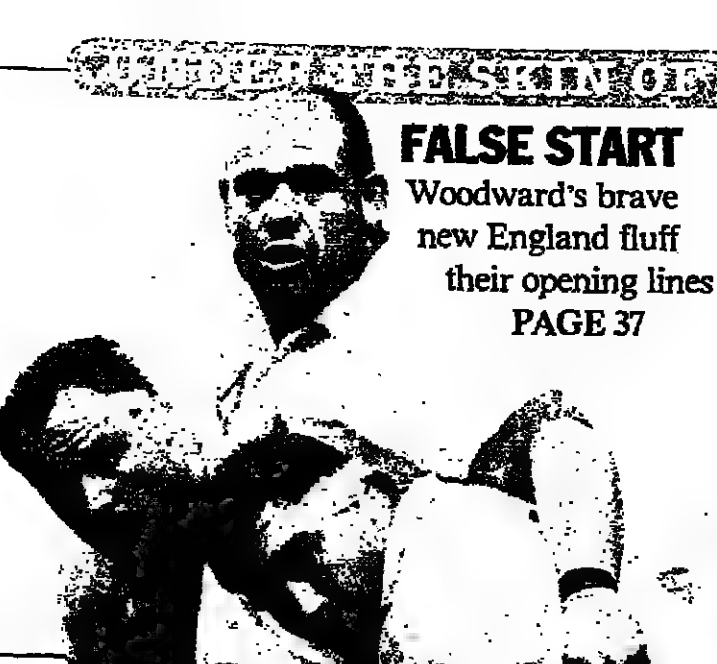
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STRING QUARTET

Sampras takes his fourth ATP world championship
PAGE 28



FALSE START

Woodward's brave new England fluff their opening lines
PAGE 37



A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Australia put Britain to flight at Elland Road
PAGE 29

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997

DELIGHT AND DESPAIR RANK HIGH ON THE ROAD TO FRANCE

England demand to be ranked with best

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AS THE qualifying competition entered its eleventh hour last night, and the composition of next summer's World Cup finals grew close to completion, Glenn Hoddle called for Fifa, football's world governing body, to recognise the importance of its own world rankings before it decides whether to make England one of the top eight seeds for the tournament in France.

As Japan, Croatia, Yugoslavia, Belgium and Italy celebrated their inclusion in the 32-nation jamboree, and Ireland mourned their play-off elimination, the England coach was fretting over his side's chances of avoiding the giants of the game in the final group stages.

If Fifa persists with the seeding system it used to determine the leading teams at the start of the 1990 and 1994 World Cups and calculates it on results in the previous three tournaments, England would be excluded from the top eight seeds because of their failure to qualify for the last competition four years ago.

On that basis, England would

Ireland fall short... 30
Sweeping changes... 31
Merson shines... 32
Fulham coast through... 33
Results and tables... 34

lose out to teams such as Italy, Argentina, Holland and Belgium in the quest for top seedings. They would fall into the second rank and face the prospect of being matched with favourites for the tournament, such as Brazil and France, when the draw is made in Marseilles on December 4. Two teams from each of the eight groups of four will qualify for the last 16 of the tournament, which is the beginning of the knock-out stages.

If, however, Fifa uses its world rankings to pick the top seeds, possibly in combination with results from previous World Cups, then England's chances of making the top eight would improve dramatically. Hoddle has lost only two of his 14 matches in charge — to Italy and Brazil — and that record has propelled England to seventh.

Argentina, who are tussling with Colombia to be England's next opponents on February 11 at Wembley, are ranked only thirteenth in that list, France are fourteenth, Italy sixteenth and Belgium 48th. It hardly seems fair that England should have qualified by coming top of a group that included Italy, only to be seeded below them.

Hoddle, of course, was circum-

spect when asked after England's 2-0 victory over Cameroon at Wembley on Saturday whether he thought the system needed revision. But he made it clear that it would be irrational if the governing body's own world rankings were ignored when the decision was made.

"If you are going to have world rankings," Hoddle said, "they have got to have some credence. The problem with using a country's past record is that, in all probability, that would have been achieved with a different management team, a different set of players. Perhaps that system needs to be re-shaped."

"With the amount of groups there are going to be, it would definitely be an advantage to be a seed. If not, you could end up with Brazil or Germany. But, if we did end up in with the Dutch, the Germans or whoever, let's face it, we have had to qualify with Italy in the group and not on a neutral ground, with a home and away situation."

Fifa has given some preliminary indications that changes in the system may be made. In some ways, footballing realpolitik might suggest seeding England because they are sure to be one of the tournament's highest-profile teams. In others, it might be deemed prudent to make life tough for them so the potential for bootlegging can be eradicated as soon as possible.

"Nothing has been decided yet," Keith Cooper, Fifa's director of communication, said recently. "For the last couple of World Cups, the seedings were based on performance in the previous three tournaments. However, there is a school of thought which says that as we've got the Fifa ranking system, we ought to use it. They were not used for the 1994 World Cup because they were too recent to be of any real value."

Ireland might have been able to do England a favour by beating Belgium in Saturday's play-off in Brussels, but even then Hoddle's side would still be lagging behind Bulgaria and Romania under the existing system. Even if Italy had been eliminated by Russia, the latter would have been ahead of England in the seeding queue.

Hoddle will not have a chance to lobby Fifa directly about changes to the system before the seedings decision is made. That will be done at a meeting of the World Cup committee two days before the draw. Then the arguing will be over, the die cast, the tournament ready to begin.



Casiraghi, top, celebrates his goal for Italy; Shay Given, above, is consoled after Ireland's defeat

FOOTBALL'S NEW WORLD ORDER	
1. Brazil	1. Small
2. Spain	2. France
3. Germany	3. Italy
4. Czech Republic	4. Germany
5. Romania	5. Argentina
6. Denmark	6. Holland
7. ENGLAND	7. Spain
8. Holland	8. Belgium
9. Russia	
10. Mexico	
11. Colombia	
12. Argentina	
13. France	
14. Italy	
15. Scotland	
16. Belgium	

England, Scotland, Romania, Bulgaria, Norway, Denmark, Austria, Croatia, Yugoslavia, Tunisia, Morocco, Cameroon, Nigeria, South Africa, Colombia, Paraguay, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Mexico, United States, Jamaica or El Salvador, Chile or Peru or Ecuador, Australia or Iran.



Japan, left, ecstatic at qualifying for the first time; Hoddle meanwhile is pondering England's seeding problem



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Complete From A to Zinc

WATERBURY

Lifeboats

TENNIS: WORLD No 1 PRODUCES DISPLAY OF COMPLETE MASTERY TO BREAK KAFELNIKOV'S SPIRIT IN HANOVER FINAL

Sampras scales unprecedented heights

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN HANOVER

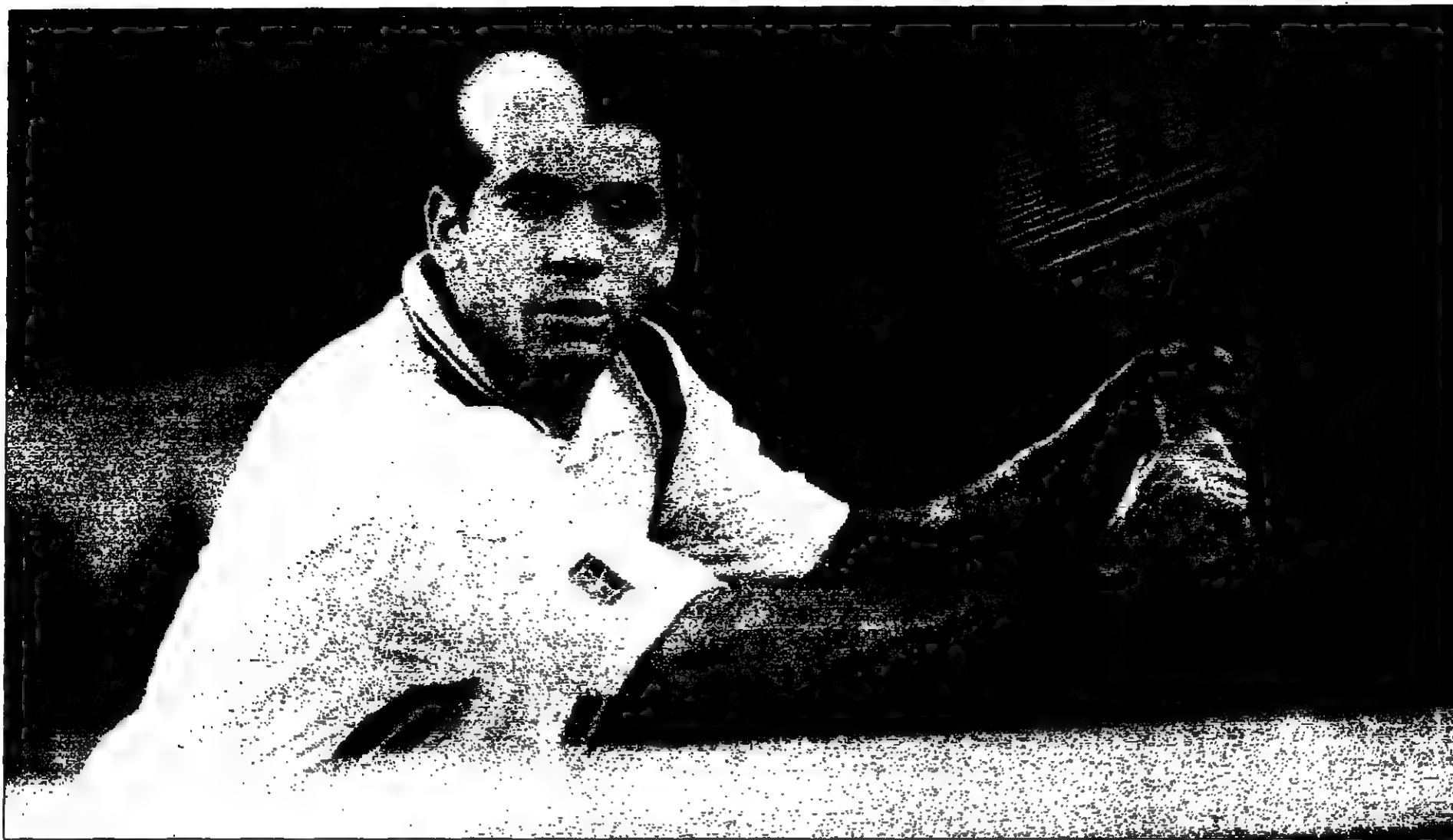
THERE WAS one glaring omission from proposals announced in advance of the ATP Tour world championship final here yesterday. In their drive to make the game more attractive, officials completely overlooked the fact that Pete Sampras should be forced to play left-handed.

Nothing less seems capable of derailing the remorseless Sampras, whose brilliance reached dizzy heights during his 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 rout of Yevgeny Kafelnikov. So pronounced was his superiority that Kafelnikov, famed for his fighting spirit, was positively grateful for the final blow. Sampras served aces even when failing to strike a clean ball. The ultimate illustration of his authority came in the second set, when the American, having broken a racket-string while serving, still contrived to win the ensuing eight-shot rally.

"I felt so embarrassed," Kafelnikov said. "I wanted to leave the court after the first set because I knew it was going to get worse. When I shook his hand at the end, I asked him: 'How could you do that to me?' He just said: 'I'm sorry.'"

It was a majestic way for Sampras, 26, to complete his 300th week as the world No 1. And it handsomely vindicated the 100-strong panel of former players, which recently voted him the best player in 25 years of the ATP's existence. This was his fourth world championship in seven years, which hoisted his career earnings to \$31.25 million (about £19 million). In this age of intense competition, it will be a grave sporting injustice should Sampras — presently in possession of ten grand-slam titles — somehow fail to overhaul Roy Emerson's record of 12.

How fitting it was that Sampras was awarded a standing ovation by a full house of 15,000 — most of whom spent the contest will-



Sampras prepares to play a backhand during his comprehensive defeat of Kafelnikov in the world championship final. Photograph: Clive Brunskill/Allsport

ing Kafelnikov to life. In an instant, their desire to reap value for their tickets had transformed into a generous tribute. It is preposterous that Sampras is sometimes vilified for his mastery. Earlier in the tournament, one only had to witness his profound regret at the absence of a true rival to recognise that these ungracious sentiments had lodged in his mind.

Thus Sampras ended the season in the manner he started it — with a blistering winning sequence. He pre-

vailled in each of the seven finals he contested, losing only once, in the round-robin stage here, to an opponent ranked inside the top ten. The game is indeed fortunate to have him at its helm, for Sampras remains untainted by a litany of sporting triumph that has soured so many before him. His superiority over contemporary players is probably greater now than it has ever been.

Sampras's reign is all the more remarkable for the fact that he has come to lament

certain aspects of his existence. "This game can be really tough," he ventured. "There is no off-season. I just wish I had two months off to recuperate and really enjoy the year. But you have to be almost consumed with the game to be No 1. There are no short-cuts. You have to prepare well."

A peculiar blot on Sampras's record is that he has been defeated in the round-robin stage during each of his four world championship triumphs. That almost certainly reflects his mental

pross and its importance to his overall potency. It was extraordinary that his spluttering opening-day defeat by Carlos Moya preceded a string of stunning performances that reached a crescendo against Kafelnikov. The Russian was himself in peak form yet, like Greg Rusedski, Patrick Rafter and Jonas Bjorkman before him, Kafelnikov never threatened to take a set from the rampant American.

In mirroring his performance in the tournament as a

whole, Sampras started poorly against Kafelnikov before, at 3-3, a run of eight games from nine took him through the opening set and out of sight in the second. He coined break points against Kafelnikov in six of the Russian's first seven service games.

Poor Kafelnikov reeled heavily from the onslaught. A string of unforced errors resulted from his efforts to keep Sampras at bay. The man with the face of a child looked ready to burst into tears.

Sampras's own performance prompted him to venture beyond his modest boundaries. "I know deep down that, when my game clicks, I feel at times unbeatable," he said. Most sympathetic with the post-match compère, who suggested that Sampras must come "from outer space". The truth is otherwise, for Sampras bled from the nose during his earlier defeat of Rusedski. Hard though it is to concede, it was the same, dark-red colour as yours and mine.

TRIATHLON

Lessing is forced to settle for bronze

By DAVID POWELL

GREAT Britain's five-year hold on the men's triathlon world title was broken in Perth yesterday when Simon Lessing unexpectedly found himself having to settle for the bronze medal. Chris McCormack, one of the new breed of Australians seeking to help satisfy the host nation's thirst for honours at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, was the surprise winner.

McCormack, 24, made his breakthrough at senior level only last year but can now boast not only his first world championship gold medal but also the world cup title. The world championships incorporated the climax to the world cup season and, by defeating Hamish Carter, of New Zealand, he clinched that honour too.

Underlining how determined Australia is to finish high up the medals table in Sydney, where triathlon makes its Olympic debut, McCormack will benefit by \$30,000 Australian (£13,000) as a result of his victory yesterday. That is the bonus paid by the Australian Olympic Committee to any of its athletes winning a world title, an incentive to train towards the Games.

Furthermore, McCormack picked up \$20,000 for his victory. After Lessing had led the pack out of the 1500 metres swim, a group of nine finished the 40 kilometres ride together, but McCormack was the most efficient in the transition before the run. Lessing was slow and McCormack was first out.

Lessing made ground briefly but the effort proved too demanding. By halfway in the 10 kilometres run, McCormack was 40 metres clear of Lessing and Carter. The New Zealander gave chase but was unable to close as McCormack won in one hour 48min 29 sec. Carter recorded 1:48:42 and Lessing 1:49:07. On reflection, the Briton may consider that his political differences with the International Triathlon Union cost him his title.

Courtesy of Spencer Smith, champion in 1993 and 1994, and Lessing, winner in 1992, 1995 and 1996, Britain has held the title for five years. However, while refusing to compete in the ITU world cup because of advertising restrictions, Lessing's race appearances have been few and far between. It may be that he was not race-fit yesterday.

Australia are relishing the prospect of triathlon as an Olympic sport. Their athletes swept the medals in the women's world championship, Emma Carney taking gold, Jackie Gallagher silver and Michelle Jones the bronze.

Rankings system set to undergo service

THE Association of Tennis Professionals Board has resolved to restructure the sport to try to make the ranking system easier to understand (Julian Muscat writes). From 2000, the rankings process will be simplified and the calendar of leading events streamlined. Negotiations to embrace the women's game within a "top tier" of 12 important tournaments are to be pursued with the Women's Tennis Association.

Two events within the Super Nine series are to be

demoted. The remaining seven will combine with the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open to create an 11-strong top tier, around which the players' rankings will be centred. To complete the new rankings system, a player will add his best seven results outside the top-tier events to determine his status over 18 tournaments in the year.

The ranking season will start in January and conclude at the end-of-season world championship.

Henman too direct for Wilkinson as he races to title

By ALIX RAMSAY

THE only way to stop Tim Henman, according to Chris Wilkinson, was to kick him in the shins. Henman duly won his third consecutive Guardian Direct national championship with a straight-forward 6-1, 6-4 dismissal of the Great Britain No 4.

It ended an eventful and profitable week for the much-travelled Henman. Five matches in Telford earned him £9,000, while one night in Hanover at the ATP Tour Championship brought him an end-of-season bonus of

\$100,000. It was hardly surprising to learn that Henman's goal for 1998 is to spend a week in Hanover. Telford has seen the last of him.

After struggling to get his game going against Danny Sapsford in the semi-finals on Saturday, Henman, the British No 2, took no chances yesterday. He has seen Wilkinson damage a few reputations over the years and he was not about to let his own be dented.

"There was more of a spring in my step, but some of that was to do with Chris," Henman said. "I knew I

couldn't give him any chances and I wanted to make life as easy as possible for myself."

It was easy enough in the first set. Henman overcame one moment of doubt — a double-fault to give Wilkinson a break point — and conceded only five points on his service.

Wilkinson played his part in the second set, but Henman was merely biding his time before sprinting to the finish. Henman broke him to love in the eighth game with two fierce passing shots and that was that.

Looking back on an erratic

year interrupted by injury, Henman said: "There are times when I play good tennis and it is up there with the best, but when I play poorly my standards drop too far. It is a case of me finding the middle ground."

"There are a lot of positives to look back on this year, but I can also look back and say how much better it could have been. I could be more consistent and that's the downside."

Henman now plans to embark on a new fitness regime in preparation for the new year. Wilkinson confirmed that, in the absence of

Henman and Greg Rusedski, the Britain No 1, he would return to Telford next year.

Sam Smith won the women's title on Saturday, beating Louise Latimer 6-4, 6-1 in the final. Smith looked nervous at first, but once she settled down, never looked in any trouble against the 19-year-old from Warwickshire.

It had been an edgy week, Smith admitted, and she had only played well here and there. Smith may not have won a fortune and the victory did not bring her any world ranking points, but the relief was plain to see.

SAILING

Smith makes slight gain

LAWRIE SMITH will need all his experience in the next few days if he is to save his campaign in the Whitbread Round the World yacht race from being relegated to also-ran status.

After a disappointing first leg when he brought *Silk Cut* into Cape Town in fourth place, Smith admitted he needed at least a podium place on the 4,600-mile second leg across the Southern Ocean to Fremantle, to remain in the hunt for overall honours.

However, for most of the past week, Smith has been languishing well down the fleet in seventh place, a position which, if maintained, would give him only 132 points from two legs, in seventh place overall, ahead of only the

Dutch in *BruneiSunergy* and the all-female crew in *EF Education*.

But all is not lost. Yesterday Smith's southerly position — only *Chesie Racing* and *EF Education* are further south — suddenly started to pay off, as *Silk Cut* recorded the fastest average speed of the fleet of 16.1 knots. Not only did Smith take some miles out of Swedish *Match*, the leading boat, but he also overtook Grant Dalton's *Merit Cup*, to move into sixth position.

After nine days of Southern Ocean racing, only 72 miles separated fourth-placed *EF Education* and last-placed *BruneiSunergy*, so fourth is

again there for the taking for Smith. But this will not satisfy him; it would leave him with a very tough task for the remaining seven legs.

There is no obvious reason for *Silk Cut*'s disappointing showing so far. Smith has said he is happy with his boat and his speed. In Cape Town he seemed content with his crew, although he admitted that an erroneous sail selection played a key role during the first leg.

Some observers believe a weakness may lie in the afterguard where Smith has employed Steve Hayles, the young and talented British navigator who sailed on *Daphin 3* Youth in the previous Whitbread event. Hayles, 24, does not have the experience of the big-name navigators in the fleet, nor does he command the huge fees they have charged for their services.

Others argue, however, that it is still too early to pin-point weak links in any team after two extraordinary legs, neither of which has clarified which of the top seven boats will dominate.

Yesterday fellow Briton Paul Stanbridge in *Toshiba*, who has held third place for a week, was 380 miles ahead of Paul Cayard in *EF Education*, the winner of the first leg.

Grant Dalton in *Merit Cup*, who has been caught too far north of the main fleet, has already virtually written off the valuable top-three places. "Unless the high pressure that has screwed us gets *Toshiba*, then the first three places on this leg are already filled," Dalton said. "The big question now is which side of the Kerguelen Islands to go and this will have a large bearing on places four, five and six."

Latest positions, page 43

ICE HOCKEY

Storm fail to hang on to lead again

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

THE contrasting fortunes of Sheffield Steelers and Manchester Storm were confirmed on Saturday at Sheffield Arena when the Steelers beat the Storm for the second time in five days. For Manchester, it was their third defeat in four games.

Their main problem in recent fixtures has been an inability to hold on to a lead. In the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final they led Ayr Scottish Eagles 3-0 early in the first game but were forced to settle for a 4-4 draw.

On Saturday they led four times only to be pulled back and then let in Tommy Plummer for Sheffield's winning goal in the second period. The Eagles, by contrast, are on a roll and their 8-4 success over Bracknell Bees on Saturday was their fifth successive win. They have lost only once in their last 13 league and cup fixtures.

Nottingham Panthers have been inconsistent but after two defeats, including their dismissal from the Benson and Hedges Cup, they returned to their best Superleague form, beating Basingstoke Bison 3-2. It took a goal by Greg Hadden in the third minute of overtime to clinch victory but it was only an outstanding performance by Sonny Migonaca in the Basingstoke goal that prevented the Panthers winning the game in regulation time.

Results, page 43

SPORT IN BRIEF

England retain title

■ **BOWLS:** England retained the European indoor team championship in Jersey on Saturday after two wins in the last round of the singles. They went into the evening session only one point clear of their nearest rivals, Ireland, and needed to win both of their remaining games to take the title after Ireland had pulled back two points earlier in the day.

Norma Shaw, the world indoor champion, needed just 45 minutes to dispose of Ariene Rubin, of Israel, 21-1 in ten ends and David Holt added a 21-7 victory over George Kaminsky, also of Israel, to crown a marvellous recovery by England after their disappointing performances in the pairs and triples earlier in the week.

Hingis reaches final

■ **TENNIS:** Martina Hingis, the No 1 seed, rallied after a shaky start to beat Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, of Spain, 1-6, 7-6, 6-3 in the semi-finals of the WTA Advanta Championship in Philadelphia. The 17-year-old from Switzerland recovered from a 1-4 deficit in the second set. Lindsay Davenport, of the United States, outplayed Irina Spirica, of Romania, 6-4, 6-2 to reach her eighth final of the year.

Crafter leads from front

■ **GOLF:** Jane Crafter, of Australia, survived a late challenge to win the Australian Women's Open in Melbourne yesterday. Crafter, who led at the end of every round, shot a final-round 70 to finish 13 under on the par-73 Yarra Yarra course. Joanne Mills, also of Australia, was three shots behind in second after a 68. Kang So-yeon, of South Korea, briefly held the lead after five straight birdies, but fell back to third.

Doncaster lose top spot

■ **FOOTBALL:** DONCASTER Bees were knocked off the top of the FA Women's Premier League when they suffered a surprise 2-1 defeat away to Liverpool, which enabled Everton to regain the leadership with a 3-1 victory over Arsenal, the champions. Karen Burke scored twice for Everton, while Cathy Davies, a substitute, hit Liverpool's injury-time winner.

Peter Ball funeral

The funeral of Peter Ball, the northern football correspondent of *The Times*, who died on November 11, will take place at midday on Thursday, November 20 at St Mary's Parish Church, Rawtenstall, Lancashire. Donations for kaukaemia research to: Hamers Ltd, Funeral Directors, James Street, Rawtenstall, Rossendale, Lancs. BB4 7NE.

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Series ends with familiar tale of woe as Australia power their way to victory

Britain fall at final hurdle once more

Great Britain 20
Australia 37

By Christopher Irvine

NOT surprisingly, Australia never tire of the same old story in rugby league. Its well-thumbed pages ended in another predictable and sobering 2-1 series defeat for Great Britain. Amid a wretched sense of déjà vu at Elland Road yesterday, the home side lost a deciding match there for the third time in seven years.

After the recovery to level the series at Old Trafford last week, the mistakes that haunted Britain in the first match at Wembley returned with a vengeance. Everything that could go wrong for Britain did go wrong, starting with the try that they conceded after 45 seconds. That drained any confidence they might have had and six further tries by Australia stemmed from the comedy of errors.

No matter how hard they tried to ignore the weight of history, it pressed down relentlessly on the home side. In a seemingly endless pursuit, Britain appear condemned to second place. It has become a biennial ritual, since the last triumph in 1970, that Britain lose the Ashes — usually with a degree of credit — and are left to ponder the lessons — the main one being that, as long as rugby league inspires year-round enthusiasm in small pockets of the country, Britain might never have sufficient numbers to tackle Australia as equals.

Like a boxer rendered senseless by the first punch, Britain were left staggering from the opening try by Ken Nagas. Paul Atcheson's name was still being read out over the public address system when he was caught unawares by Daley's chip over the Britain defence. Nagas took full advantage of a friendly bounce and exposed the full back's glaring lack of pace to score a try that set the tone for the rest of the match.

A series brought to life by Britain's gutsy win the previous week was suddenly undermined.



Daley, the Australia captain, joins in the celebrations after another try in his side's victory over Great Britain yesterday

Australia never needed to touch the heights of which they are capable, as Britain's nervy defence committed blunder after blunder.

Although Britain outscored Australia after the break, a twelfth successive series victory had already been secured. All the bad memories of the world club championship were revived by the defensive ineptitude displayed in the first half. If the hapless Atcheson had not been helped off with a groin

injury, he would surely have been replaced, but not before he surrendered possession as he careered out of defence and presented Daley with a gift try.

This was a poor-packed performance by Australia. There was no repeat of the frills attempted without success at Old Trafford for they did not dare suffer the ignominy of becoming the first touring side since 1939 to return from Britain defeated. With Daley operating like

a puppet master, Smith superb at loose forward and Tallis demonic in his tackling, Britain were hampered into early submission.

Andy Farrell's performance was a grave disappointment by his standards. The Britain captain's nerves showed as much as the rest of his team-mates. There was no tactical kicking to speak of and, whereas the home performance needed to be several notches above the one at Old Trafford, it fell

woefully below par, as Australia raced to a 25-2 lead by half-time.

Wendell Sailor's muscular running and ruthless opportunism brought him two tries in eight minutes. From a scrum after an attempted interception by McDermott, Lockyer cleverly drew Sailor on his inside and Scullthorpe had the hopeless task of trying to stop him. The next try followed a hospital pass by Farrell to Morley, which Girdler swooped on from 70

metres out and Sailor confidently did the rest.

Daley's try and a barnstorming effort by Thorn, this time from a knock on by Haughton, were indicative of the panic in the Britain ranks. There was no let-up from Smith at the start of the second half as he split Forshaw and Joynt from acting half back. Smith learnt of his man-of-the-match award as he was in the sin bin after a fracas that at least spurred Britain into action.

A kind bounce from a steeping kick by Goulding provided Haughton, a substitute, with his first try. A smart passage of handling brought Australia's final try by Kearns before the consolation, such as it was, for Britain of Robinson providing the best individual moment with an electrifying try beneath the posts, and a second for the tireless Haughton.

Not that a 17-point margin in any way reflected Australia's sheer dominance. Andy Goodway, the Britain coach, who has a year to put things right before the World Cup in the southern hemisphere, said: "It again exposed the problems we have in producing quality players compared with the Australian production line."

The answer from John Lang, the Australia coach, is for the game in Britain to look seriously at its competition and cut out the deadwood, of which there is plenty. None of this, however, accounts for the errors that overwhelmed Britain's Ashes hopes once again.

SCORERS: Great Britain: Tries: Haughton (2), Robinson; Goals: Farrell (4), Atcheson; Australia: Tries: Sailor (2), Nagas, Daley, Thorn, Smith, Kearns; Goals: Girdler (4); Dropped goal: Lockyer. GREAT BRITAIN: P. Atcheson (St Helens), J. Robinson (Wigan), K. Radford (Wigan), P. Newlove (St Helens), A. Hurst (St Helens), A. Farrell (Wigan, captain), R. Goulding (St Helens), S. McDermott (Bradford), J. Lowe (Bradford), P. Broadbent (Sheff Wed), C. Joynt (St Helens), A. Morley (Leeds), P. Scullthorpe (Warrington), S. Subbotin (St Helens), S. Haughton (Wigan), S. McManis (Bradford), M. Forshaw (Bradford). AUSTRALIA: D. Lockyer (Bradford), K. Nagas (Canberra), A. Binglehurst (Canberra), R. Girdler (Canberra), W. Sailor (Bradford), L. Daley (Canberra, captain), C. Kearns (Parramatta), J. Gowers (Canberra), S. Walters (North Queensland), B. Thorn (Parramatta), G. Tallis (Canberra), S. Joyce (Canberra), D. Smith (Bradford), S. Subbotin (St Helens), M. Atcheson (Parramatta), M. Robinson (Canberra), P. Houston (New Zealand). Referee: P. Houston (New Zealand).

Tracing root cause of inferiority complex

Throughout the anthems and for some time into the decisive final match of the international series at Elland Road, a lone white balloon hovered in the breeze just above the centre circle. It was, by a distance, the longest anything in Great Britain's colours remained buoyant yesterday afternoon.

For it took just 43 seconds for the breath to be knocked out of the belief that Britain could beat Australia at rugby league on home ground in a series for the first time since 1959. In those devastating seconds, Paul Atcheson, garlanded for his debut at full back at Old Trafford eight days earlier, felt the noose around his neck as his error, his palpable inability to tackle Ken Nagas, allowed the Canberra Raider in for the first try.

Since this was to be a monumental British effort, one of the national team putting back reason to believe, to hope, to rebuild buoyancy in the northern rugby game, why blame a young sportsman in isolation?

Rob Hughes admires the versatility and maturity that yielded another series victory for Australia against Great Britain

Rugby league is a cruel and sometimes crude game. It is raw in its passion and power, and quite naked in seeking a villain of the piece. And yet, in the 28 minutes that Atcheson was to last, before being helped off with a groin injury, he typified the stumbling ineptitude, born no doubt of a fear of failure, that gave Australia all the impetus they could desire.

Atcheson, the St Helens full back, is not really a rookie; he is 24. Consider, then, that Craig Gower, the Australian, is but 19. He wears the green and gold with pride, he drank lustily from the cup in the dressing-room and, sporting a gold earring, he epitomises the versatility of the Australian players, and the privilege of a background that steeped youngsters in his game. "I started playing when I was five," he said. "There are more than a

dozen clubs in my area, and some of them run five sides for the under eights."

Perhaps that is why this Australian boy did not exhibit the nervous errors of Andy Farrell, the captain, Atcheson and the rest of the Britain team. Gower, a four-year contract with Penrith on the outer suburbs of Sydney already signed, lives at home with his mother, but owns two houses near Cronulla Beach.

So, possibly, the rewards and the very roots of rugby league in the two hemispheres must be considered before Britain — in particular Northern England — can rediscover a semblance of the omnipotence of the game it exported to Australia 90 years ago.

"I'm driven on by absolute determination to beat those bloody Aussies," Maurice Lindsay, the

chief executive of the Rugby Football League, said afterwards. He had managed three Great Britain teams in losing Test series. He had hoped, like his countrymen, that the heroic and surprise victory in Manchester denoted a turning of fortune.

And he probably knew better, probably envisaged before the third match began that John Lang, the former hooker now coaching the Australia side, would be saying in victory: "It's a terrific feeling, not just that we won, but that we blew them off the park. You get out and get stuck in, and it's amazing how the bounce goes your way. It's about handling under pressure at this level."

The bounce, how capriciously that first ball, booted downfield by Girdler, sat up invitingly for Nagas. He, playing only because

of injury to Brett Mullins, accepted the ball with alacrity. Still, Atcheson, 6ft 3in and more than 15 stone, should have nailed him, but mistimed his lunge, and the Australian was in, over and out.

By half-time it was a massacre, the Australians having run in five tries, without playing scintillating rugby, and leading 25-2. They had simply capitalised on errors that came from the men in white, and the great expectations of a capacity 39,357 crowd were stunned almost to silence.

True, the defiant spirit late on did rekindle some pride, but I wonder if the large numbers of so-called British supporters who booed the Australian national anthem will now reflect that this misbehaviour does nothing but get into the soul of a truly competitive opponent, building, if it were needed, their resolve to conquer.

The emphatic pace, the power, the quickness of hand and eye of the Australians looked as if it was fashioned in a different stratosphere, nevermind hemisphere.



Farrell made nervous errors as Great Britain captain

SQUASH

Parke beats the best as England retain world title

FROM COLIN MCQUELLAN IN KUALA LUMPUR

ENGLAND marshalled a resilient defence of the men's world team title here with a 3-0 win over Canada in the final over the weekend.

Simon Parke, the England No 1, who lost in the second round of the World Open to the British champion, Mark Cairns, easily beat the new world champion, Rodney Eyles, of Australia, in the semi-final and the most exciting newcomer to the PSA World Tour, Jonathon Power, of Canada, in the final to lead England to victory.

Eyles was grouchy, jaded and seemingly unable to adjust to the different scoring system.

Power, who earlier in the week had rather embarrassed Parke as part of Canada's qualifying win over England, suffered back spasms the night before and was still fragile when facing the mobile and shot-packed attack the 25-year-old Yorkshireman ranged against him to win 9-1, 9-0, 9-0 in just 22 minutes.

The mastery of Chris Walker, the 30-year-old London-based England captain, over Gary Waite in the following third string rubber was almost as complete. He won 9-1, 9-3, 9-4 in 35 minutes to leave 28-year-old Del Harris, of Colchester, to tidy up the second string dead rubber, just as he did in the semi-final against Australia, 5-1, 9-1, over Graham Ryding, who had beaten him nearly two weeks earlier in the World Open first round.

When England won the title for the first time in Cairo two years ago, Walker was on the bench for the final. "That has always rankled a bit," he said. "It felt much better knowing that the last ball Gary hit disappeared into the tin after I had run him ragged was actually giving us the title again."

This time Peter Marshall, of Nottingham, was on the bench, as he had been since managing only a rather one-paced defeat at the hands of Ryding in the qualifying match against Canada.

"Ours was a victory for strength in depth and good timing of our maximum effort for the knock-out stages," David Pearson, the England coach, said. "All three players benefited from short involvements in the World Open and a consequent strong desire to restore their reputations in the eyes of their peers from all over the world."

Wales finished twelfth, Scotland, lacking their World Open finalist, Peter Nicol, who refused to play on through the team event, finished fifteenth in an event they might even have won at full strength.

Results, page 43

BASKETBALL: HOME OFFICE STILL CONSIDERING CHANGE OF EMPLOYER FOR LEWIS

American cannot join frustrated Royals

By Nicholas Harling

PETTY bureaucracy at the Home Office is compounding the plight of Watford Royals at the foot of the Budweiser League. The Hertfordshire club, still without a win after their 93-76 home defeat by Crystal Palace on Saturday, have been unable to include Cleave Lewis, the 35-year-old American, in their squad even though he has been released by Worthing Bears.

Vince Macaulay-Razai, the

Royals owner, said: "The Home Office have issued him with a work permit, but he still can't play until they have approved his change of employer. We'd have been better off cancelling his original work permit, sending him out of the country and re-applying for a fresh one."

Palace, one place above them, had been regarded as beatable, but Watford were doomed to their fourteenth league defeat of the season long before the end. The

Royals' frustration was illustrated by the dismissal in the third quarter of Leon Noel for abusing Will Jones, the referee, after a foul on Junior Williams.

Worthing Bears have their troubles, too. Greg Fullerton's withdrawal as owner after buying the club last summer has left a promising squad in danger of being broken up. On Saturday, they lost 89-76 at home to London Towers. James Hamilton, a former Bear, collected 22 points for

the Towers, while Ryan Williams scored 28 for Worthing.

A league record was set at Bracknell, where four periods of overtime were required before Thames Valley Tigers beat Derby Storm 145-144 in the highest-scoring game of the season. Tony Holley's 49 points for the Tigers was also a best for the season but, as the scorer of 41 for the Storm, Ted Berry was the unluckiest loser of the weekend.

Results, page 43

SPEEDWAY: PETERBOROUGH PROMOTER CONCERNED BY BURGEONING GRAND PRIX

Oakes warning over expansion plans

By Tony Hoare

THE proposed expansion of the world championship grand prix poses a serious threat to British speedway, according to Peter Oakes, the Peterborough Panthers promoter, who is considering dropping the Elite League club into the Premier League.

Oakes has revealed that the Panthers will be unable to run on 12 of their regular Friday race nights in 1998. Five Fridays will be lost because

two Peterborough riders, Jason Crump and Ryan Sullivan, have qualified for the grand prix, with seven others ruled out through other commitments.

Oakes said: "The grand prix will affect more and more clubs, we are just the first to be hit."

There are plans for qualifying meetings for the grand prix, which would last a week, and talk of there being more grands prix. That is bound to affect British speedway — we

will end up being without our top riders for the entire week."

The Peterborough promotion suffered financially this season when his gamble on opening a sister track at Skegness failed, and the Panthers were forced to complete their fixtures at Ryde, on the Isle of Wight. Oakes is now pinning his hopes on finding sponsorship to cover the cost of staying in the Elite League.

"The financial situation does come into it," Oakes said, "but, in 1998, if we run Elite

League we would have a period from July 31 to September 25 with only one meeting on a Friday."

Oakes says that he will wait until British promoters stage their annual conference, in Llanazote next week, before announcing his final decision on the club's future. Should the Panthers drop into the Premier League, they would make Crump, whom they signed two years ago in a British record transfer deal of £35,000, available for loan.

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FOOTBALL: IRELAND LACK QUALITIES NEEDED TO QUALIFY FOR THIRD SUCCESSIVE WORLD CUP FINALS

McCarthy fails to sustain dream

A valiant side dies with its boots on

FROM ENDA McEVY IN BRUSSELS



Belgium 2
Ireland 1
(Belgium win 3-2 on agg)
(Belgium win 3-2 on agg)

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN BRUSSELS

JACK CHARLTON, the former Ireland manager, descended the steps from his television commentary box. He paused a moment, scratched his forehead and stared across at the Ireland players applauding their still adoring supporters. He had seen it before but wanted one last look: then he was gone. It was all over.

Ireland's attempt to make a third successive appearance at the World Cup finals had failed. The rain lashed down in the King Baudouin Stadium, We Are The Champions boomed out over the public address system and the champagne flowed. Yet it was Belgium, not Charlton's beloved Ireland, that had qualified to play in France next year.

In the emotion of the moment, as Mick McCarthy, Charlton's successor, led his players towards the flag-waving mass of green, white and orange, it was tempting to wax lyrical about glorious failure. Had not Ireland, overwhelming underdogs in the second leg of this play-off, performed well?

Were not Belgium hanging on desperately in the closing stages, increasingly paranoid about conceding an equaliser that would have signalled their exit on away goals? And was it not only a suspiciously crafted winner that had decided the tie?

Yes, thrice over. Yet the truth was out there, somewhere, amid the hype and hysteria. Ireland under McCarthy, however honestly he has toiled and however much precocious talent is filtering



Nilla, the Belgium striker, slots home the goal that ended Ireland's hopes of securing a place in the World Cup finals in France next summer

through, are not ready for the main event.

Instead, during the coming months, Ireland will become no more than a warm-up act for the finalists. Once the bitter taste has left the palate, McCarthy might privately concede that France 1998 would have been a tournament too soon for a squad still in the throes of frustrating, often painful, transition. Charlton may no longer have an influence, but his shadow lingers large. Comparisons would have been rife next year and it is better to weep now rather than later.

Ireland had done it before in 1990, against Malta, and in 1994, against Northern Ireland — reaching the finals in their concluding qualifying matches. In Vallenia and Bel-

fast, too: away from the comfort of home. They had drunk in the Last Chance Saloon and enjoyed it. Expectations were similarly high on Saturday, despite the residual gloom from the 1-1 first-leg draw.

Oliveira dampened the spirits in the 25th minute, running on to a pass from Claessens, skipping past Given and shepherding the ball into the empty net. Ireland had taken many blows during a roller-coaster 15-month campaign and, again, counterpunched with gusto. Townsend crossed deftly and Houghton, twisting in mid-air, headed over De Wilde.

Townsend reconsiders

ANDY TOWNSEND, the Ireland captain, is to reconsider his decision to retire from international football (Russell Kempson writes). Townsend, 34, made his announcement after the World Cup defeat in Belgium on Saturday night but Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, has asked him to think again. "I've told him

that's what I'll do," Townsend said yesterday.

McCarthy has yet to agree to the offer of a two-year extension to his contract, but it is likely that he will sign in the next ten days. "We should have it sorted out in the very near future," Pat Quigley, the Football Association of Ireland president, said.

"It was clearly our throw," McCarthy said. "It was when we were in control and has cost us a place in the World Cup finals." When he watches the video evidence, when the hurt has subsided, he may reassess his verdict.

No doubt, though, about Connelly's sending off, for shoving Verheyen and then kicking him when he was down. It was Ireland's third dismissal, alongside 21 bookings, in their 12 World Cup qualifying fixtures, a discipli-

nary excess that McCarthy must curb.

Belgium celebrated; Given was inconsolable. The stadium stewards gathered up the soggy tricolours and handed them back through the fencing. No dining at the top table this time.

IRELAND (4-4-2): S. Given (Newcastle United); J. Keane (Blackburn Rovers); K. Connelly (Wimbledon); J. Harty (Leeds United); S. Shanahan (Aston Villa); L. Cahill (Derby County); G. Kelly (Leeds United); A. McLoughlin (Preston North End); S. Houghton (Reading, 88); A. Townsend (Blackburn, 88); D. Kelly (Ipswich Town, 88); M. Kearney (Aberdeen, 78); A. Casaraghi (AS Nancy).

Belgium (4-4-2): F. de Waele (Sporting Lisbon); G. Dierckx (FC Brugge); J. Verstraeten (Germinal Beerschot); G. de Boeck (Anderlecht); G. Veldhoen (Mouscron); V. Bostmans (FC Brugge, 88); G. Verheyen (FC Brugge); F. van der Bur (FC Brugge); G. Claessens (FC Brugge); P. Leirwaert (AS Mouscron, 78); G. Nill (PSV Eindhoven, 88); M. Goossens (FC Sochaux, 88).

Referee: G. Burtin (Belgium).

ward, by now rapidly assuming the dimensions of Billy Bunter's postal order — eternally imminent but never actually materialising — was not back for another half a decade.

Would that Mick McCarthy had the likes of Stapleton, Brady and Lawrenson in their 1980s pomp available to him. Where he was forced to rely for his battering ram in attack on Tony Casciaro — a player who, were he a horse, would be little more than a slow gallop away from the knacker's yard — his Belgian counterpart, George Leekens, could afford the luxury of doing without Gilles De Bilde. PSV Eindhoven's tormentor of Newcastle United, Unfair! Football always is, especially to small nations for whom success will invariably be cyclical.

Their day, if and when it comes, must be seized with both hands, for it doesn't come too often. Ask Northern Ireland.

Inexperienced referees, disallowed

THE Ireland supporters being soaked in the uncovered part of the city and stand at the Baudouin Stadium could have few complaints about the football.

The speed of Luc Nilla's response to Ray Houghton's equaliser was a clear indication of Belgium's ability to shift two gears upwards when required. Over the course of both legs, there could be no question as to which was the better side and no argument that the right team is going to France next summer. At least, and as always, Ireland died with their boots on.

It was apt that the former Heysel stadium, now trading as the King Baudouin stadium, was the venue; the Heysel carries a significance for Irish football, no less enduring, albeit far less ghastly, than it does for the citizens of Liverpool and Turin. For it was here, on a warm Wednesday night 11 years ago, that the Jack Charlton revolution began. Eleven years: can it really be that long since 800 travelling supporters — contrast that with the 9,000 of Saturday night — packed a silver of terracing one September evening and witnessed Liam Brady slide home a last-minute penalty to give the visitors an improbable 2-2 draw against the recent World Cup semi-finalists?

The match, Charlton's first serious competitive fixture as manager, was a Euro '88 qualifier. In retrospect we ought to have known there could be something strange was afoot. Ireland didn't get results away from home in those days. They certainly didn't get penalties. When Nick Hornby observed that disappointment was the natural lot of your common or garden football fan, it was not the Ireland supporter of pre-Big Jack era he had in mind. But it should have been.

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Cesare Maldini salutes the Neapolitan crowd

Casiraghi sends Italy wild in the cauldron of Naples

Italy 1
Russia 0
FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE IN NAPLES

ITALY, promised Cesare Maldini, their relieved and joyful manager, will not employ a blunderbuss attack in the World Cup finals in France as they did here against Russia on Saturday evening. Gigi Casiraghi and Fabrizio Ravanelli ultimately did the trick, but, as one might have expected, they duplicated rather than complemented one another.

"I had already decided on this for some time," Maldini said, savouring Italy's qualification for France next summer

after their 1-0 play-off win, 2-1 on aggregate. "In other games we shall play differently, but this time, we could not afford to make mistakes."

"I am sorry there was no room for Zola, he had been a very important player for us in the first part of the qualifying group. Obviously, I am a lucky international manager. Wherever I put my hands, I fish successfully."

The Italy coach and his players paid warm tribute to the support from the Neapolitan crowd, though to a neutral, their one-sided behaviour was displeasing. All well and good to cheer their own team to the echo as the 69,000 did, but to whistle Russia loud and long whenever they were in possession was another story.

Overall, Italy deserved to win, grinding out the result on the heavy pitch. The curiosity of the game was the ease with which they scored their winning goal. The through pass by Demitrio Albertini was precise and decisive; better, he said, than the one with which he set up Christian Vieri's goal during the 1-1 draw in the first leg in Moscow.

Russia had defended well until then, apart from one fearful moment when only a gallant save by Ovtchinnikov thwarted Ravanelli after a mistake by Onopko. For once, though, the packed Russia defence was caught square, enabling Casiraghi, recalled after recent absence, to run on and score coolly and precisely. Boris Ignatiev, the Russia



(Italy win 2-1 on aggregate)
Naples attendance: 69,000

manager, was deeply disappointed. "When things go badly in Russia," he said, "it breaks the revolution. Our aim was to block the wings, where most of the danger came for us in Moscow. And we succeeded."

"This time, the attack didn't function. Only Kolyanov, up to a point, followed instructions. I like Casiraghi, he scored a very important goal."

Indeed he did. The only moment when Russia threatened to do the same was in the first half, when Khoklov found Yuran after a fine run down the right. But the player who did so little at Millwall and has redeemed himself since could not beat Peruzzi. Albertini caused Ovtchinnikov most danger, particularly with an inswinging corner from the left that he only just managed to push away, and a long free kick from the right to which Ciro Ferrara got in a powerful header.

Ignatiev pointed out that Russia had blocked Italy on

the wings and, indeed, Paolo Maldini and Perotto rarely threatened. Maldini said that he could not understand the criticisms made of Cesare, his father, before the match. "However, in football, it's the result that matters. We have beaten Russia and now we are going to France," he said.

"The rest is gossip. This is a team that deserves respect and the managerial staff is totally of value. I'll tell you something else: there is an ideal rapport between players and managers. Just look at what happens in other international teams. They quarrel from morning until night."

Well though Albertini played, and although Di Matteo had his first-half moments, there is still no player

in the Italy midfield in the tradition of Gianni Rivera, one who, with his flair and intuition, can really keep the team on the move. With Zola or Del Piero up front, such a deficiency might be partly overcome.

But the double centre forward plan, if it continues to involve big men, is unlikely to bear much fruit in France, where Italy can hardly make the Neapolitan crowd with them.

ITALY (4-3-3): A. Peruzzi — A. Costacurta; F. Casaraghi, C. Ferrara — G. Perotto (sub: A. Nesta, 77); D. Albertini, R. Di Matteo, D. Baggio, P. Maldini — F. Ravanelli (sub: A. Del Piero, 77); P. Casiraghi. RUSSIA (4-2-3-2): S. Ovtchinnikov — J. Naidov — V. Onopko, J. Kovun — J. Radnikov (sub: S. Bernat, 88); I. Janovskiy (sub: I. Smirnov, 88); D. Khoklov, O. Koldov, D. Popov — S. Yuran (sub: V. Berezhnevskiy, 78); I. Kolyanov.

Referee: S. Mullermeier (Switzerland).

Japan storm into World Cup finals

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MASAYUKI OKANO scored a minute from the end of sudden-death extra-time to give Japan a 3-2 win over Iran yesterday, and send his team through to their first World Cup finals. The result of the Asian play-off in Malaysia consigned Iran to another play-off over two legs against Australia, the Oceania group winners, on November 22 and 29, for the last place at next year's finals in France.

Okano, who came on as a substitute, scored the golden goal in the 119th minute after the score was locked at 2-2 at full time. Japan, who are co-hosting the 2002 World Cup finals, went ahead after 39 minutes with a low drive from Masashi Nakayama. However, Iran scored two goals in 13 minutes after the break, from Khodadad Azizi and Ali Daei, before Japan equalised through Shoji Jo in the 75th minute.

Croatia held Ukraine to a 1-1 draw on Saturday night to qualify for the finals for the first time. Ukraine, who lost 2-0 in the first leg in Zagreb, dominated proceedings but never looked likely to score the three goals that they needed. Andriy Shevchenko briefly raised the hopes of

85,000 in the Olympic Stadium with a fourth-minute goal, before the visitors levelled the score after 27 minutes, when Alen Boksic's shot took a deflection and wrong-footed Olexander Shovkovsky, the Ukraine goalkeeper.

"We have reason to be elated," Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach, said after the triumph. "We fought like knights and we are on our way to where we belong, where we will prove that we are a football nation."

Yugoslavia qualified for the finals, after an absence of eight years, by beating Hungary 5-0 in their second leg play-off, giving them a 12-1 aggregate triumph. Yugoslavia reached the quarter-finals in Italy in 1990, where they lost to Argentina on penalties. They were banned from competing four years ago because of the civil war in the former Yugoslavia.

Savo Milosevic, the Aston Villa striker, scored their first goal in the seventeenth minute, paving the way for Predrag Mijatovic, of Real Madrid, who claimed a hat-trick in the first leg to complete the rout in front of a vociferous 60,000 crowd with the next four goals.

Jess offers reminder of the striker that time forgot

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

PLAYERS whose subtle gifts can baffle opponents are most at risk of becoming a mystery to themselves. In the 1-1 draw with Rangers at Pittodrie on Saturday, Eoin Jess gave Aberdeen the lead by showing refined control and movement to open up the space for a smooth drive that dipped into the top corner of the net. That episode marked the abrupt re-emergence of a talent that has been in hiding.

Despite a smattering of goals in cup competitions, Jess had not scored in league football since hitting the winner for Coventry City against Queens Park Rangers on April 13 last year. He has gradually become known as an attacking midfielder player more than a forward, but it is ludicrous that 19 months should pass without Jess finding the net to assist the Highfield Road club or Aberdeen in the gathering of points.

The consequences for an admired player have been severe. He moved to Coventry for almost £2 million in February 1996 and returned to Pittodrie for a third of that value in the summer. There are other, more personal, ways in which depression is registered and Jess was not included in the party of 26

potential that has yet to be realised and club and country must hope merely that he settles into reasonable form. Whatever his hopes of taking part in the 1998 World Cup, Jess ought to be capable of piloting Aberdeen to respectability. That journey will have its troubles. His side might have been entombed beneath a landslide of goals by half-time on Saturday and, before the interval, it was awkward to decide who had been the more impressive occupant of the Aberdeen post.

Worse still, his exclusion from the squad passed without even a tremor of dissent from the public. Jess will be 27 next month and it should peeve him that the images of his precocious youth are still vivid. There have been too few subsequent achievements to block the view of the exhilarating early days of his career.

All the same, difficulties ought perhaps to have been expected in his development. He does not have attributes such as pace or strength that are always at a footballer's command and Jess can only call upon cerebral qualities, such as imagination and sleight of foot. Given Jess's age, it is too late to talk of

potential that has yet to be realised and club and country must hope merely that he settles into reasonable form.

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While Heart of Midlothian have extended their lead at the top of the table to three points, Aberdeen are in bottom place, because Motherwell recorded an unexpected 2-0 win against Celtic. Nonetheless, there was sufficient merit in Aberdeen's display to whet the appetite of candidates for the vacant manager's job at Pittodrie.

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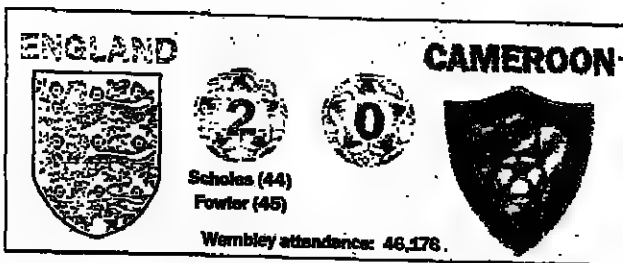
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Ferdinand's emergence prompts dilemma after England's victory over Cameroon

Hoddle contemplates sweeping changes



By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS more than an hour after the end of the game when Glenn Hoddle strode into the Red Bar at Wembley and took his seat. Behind him were two televisions, each showing action from a different match. One beamed out the dying minutes of Italy's victory over Russia, the other played highlights of Barner's rather more prosaic FA Cup defeat against Watford. They formed a neat backdrop to the England coach: a symbol of a man in two minds.

Much of what Hoddle had to say after England's languid but assured victory over Cameroon on Saturday was positive and decisive. He praised Paul Scholes to the skies after a performance of sustained excellence and a goal of sheer brilliance. "He can be the jewel in the crown," Hoddle said. There were words of encouragement, too, for Robbie Fowler, who responded to the suggestions that this was his last chance to prove himself worthy of being Alan Shearer's understudy by scoring with a clinical header. He, it was clear, had advanced his chances of making Hoddle's squad for the World Cup finals next summer.

But there was a cloudier side to what Hoddle had to say, too. Usually the most decisive of coaches, he admitted that he was clearly impaled on the horns of a dilemma that goes to the very heart of England's prospects of success in France. Caution sits on one shoulder, his instincts and his footballing philosophy perch on the other.

This, moreover, is a choice that goes beyond the theory question of which 22 he should select. It concerns the formation of the team, a radical change from the pragmatism that Hoddle has followed so far. His dilemma is whether to build his defence around a young sweeper of soaring potential, Rio Ferdinand.

Ferdinand, 19, has only just broken into the West Ham United team, but such has been the maturity of his performances that he has quickly progressed to the full England squad. On Saturday, he stepped off the bench to make his debut seven minutes before half-time, after Gareth Southgate was carried off on a stretcher with an ankle injury.

In defence, he did not put a foot wrong against a side of limited attacking ability. More significant, Ferdinand added an offensive weapon to England's armoury that has been sorely lacking. One elegant surge out of defence in the 66th minute that created a clear shooting chance for Fowler was like a revelatory flash of inspiration.

Hoddle has made no secret of the fact that he would love to play with a sweeper, but until now he has discounted it because of lack of personnel and lack of time. Now, Ferdinand has emerged and Hoddle has to decide whether to persevere with him.

"We have had a hell of a good defensive record with the clean sheets that we have got and the players we have used," Hoddle said. "It is a delicate one for me to try to sort out and get the balance right. A lot depends on who from midfield can step into defence if the sweeper presses forward. Paul line can do that."

"What I have got to decide is if that is really going to make



Scholes, who capped an outstanding display with a superbly-taken goal, evades Ipinu's challenge at Wembley. Photograph: Marc Aspland

us a threat to go on and win the World Cup. If that is what I really feel could be the added extra, then it would obviously be worth looking at.

"I like that system anyway. If the player or the system is not quite ready then I would be a fool to try to force the issue. If you do not have someone to fill in, you could get caught with your pants down and concede goals."

"The sweeper can be an attacking option. Ronald Koeman... stepped in there and he could hurt you by hitting a 60-yard pass that could nullify eight or nine players. No disrespect, but I do not think Rio is going to be able to do that. Ruud Gullit could do that. Ruud Krol did that. There are only isolated players who can achieve that."

"Whether I give Rio another chance depends on all sorts of things. I am not sure whether there is enough time and whether we have got enough games. My main concern is that I do not take my eye off

the fact that we have to do well in the World Cup."

Against Cameroon, no longer the foremost power in African football even though they have qualified for France, the greens for World Cup success were promising, at least. Playing with a semi-experimental team, England always looked the more dominant, creative force. Ince was outstanding in his holding role in front of the back four and Gascoigne linked well with Scholes and McManaman in midfield. In defence, Hinchcliffe looked a useful addition to the back three and Campbell was as solid as ever.

Scholes, though, was indeed the jewel that sparkled. His goal two minutes before half-time came after Gascoigne had caused panic in the Cameroon defence with a jinking run past four opponents. Foe and Kalla tackled each other trying to clear the danger and, when the ball ran on to the diminutive Manchester United midfielder player, he dinked

it over Ogonndzi with a stub of his right foot and it arched into the air, falling just under the crossbar.

With the half deep in injury time, Fowler ended the match as a contest. Ince played the ball out wide to Beckham and when he sent in an inviting, curling cross, Ince left for his Liverpool team-mate, who dispatched it unerringly.

The England attack, once so problematic in its selection for France, is beginning to pick itself. Now the agonising is turning to defence.

ENGLAND (3-5-1-1): N Martin (Leeds United) — S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), G Southgate (Aston Villa), sub: R Ferdinand, West Ham United, 38mins, A Hinchcliffe (Everton) — G Beckham (Manchester United), P Gascoigne (Preston), sub: R Lee, Newcastle United, 72, P Ince (Liverpool), S McManaman (Liverpool), P Neville (Manchester United) — F Scholes (Manchester United), sub: C Sutton, Blackburn Rovers, 70 — R Fowler (Liverpool).



Pair of aces: England's goalscorers against Cameroon, Fowler and Scholes, set off for the dressing-rooms

Brolin may return to England to play for Palace

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TOMAS BROLIN could be returning to English football with Crystal Palace. Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, has invited the former Leeds United striker to a trial at Selhurst Park.

A Palace official said: "Steve Coppell has invited Brolin over for a week. He wants to see what the player's attitude is like and a permanent deal is not out of the question."

"Palace have gone to Sweden to play a friendly while there is a break in the Premiership programme this weekend, and Steve is hoping to finalise the offer of a trial while he is out there."

Brolin, who had an unhappy two-year spell at Elland Road after his £4.2million move from Italian club Parma, is now playing for Stockholm club Hammarby, newly promoted to the Swedish first division.

Leeds saved £420,000 in wages by freeing Brolin from his contract before it expired next June. They decided to cut their losses in order to avoid a Football Association inquiry into the string of fines imposed on the former Swedish international for various misdemeanours. Brolin, 27, scored just four goals in 27 appearances for the Yorkshire club.

Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, is reportedly prepared to sell his stake in the club for £60 million. Johnson, who bought Everton in 1994, is said to have become disillusioned with his apparent unwillingness to give Howard Kendall, the manager, money to bring in new players.

The former Tranmere Rovers chairman's attempt to move the club away from Goodison Park — their home since 1892 — have also been upset a significant number of supporters.

The Football Association is expected to announce before the end of the year which company has won the contract to supply England's kit into the next century. Claims that Nike, an American company, has offered a £150 million ten-year deal have been dismissed as "premature" by an FA spokesman.

Umro holds the contract, which runs out in June 1999, and is fighting to maintain its interest.

An FA spokesman said: "Nike and Umro are just two of several companies who have tendered for the contract. As yet the FA have not made a decision. It could be weeks or a couple of months, but it would be expected probably around the turn of the year."

Cameroon no longer fly flag for Africa

When Cameroon ushered Solomon Olombe, 16, years and 342 days, from the bench into the match against England on Saturday, they granted him 17 minutes of spurious fame as the youngest player to take the field in a full international at Wembley. They also signalled, palpably, that Cameroon is not the nation to fulfil the prophecy of Walter Winterbottom, the first England manager, that Africa will produce a World Cup winner by the end of the millennium.

Rather, this Cameroon was displaying a search for a gimmick, something to distract the reality that their own talent pool is nothing comparable with the 1990 team that defeated Argentina in the opening game of the World Cup in Italy, and thrilled us all to the prospect of Africa's potential.

Be not deceived, however. There is a team of mature African players, Nigeria, that could, indeed, be a semi-finalist in France next summer. Already the Olympic champions, a feat that required removing almost full-strength teams from Argentina and Brazil from the tournament, Nigeria's problem is organisational and political.

There are Commonwealth heads of government who wish to see Nigeria, with its exemplary talents such as Nwanku Kanu, removed from the World Cup before a ball is kicked because of the misdemeanours of General Sani Abacha's military Government. Cameroon, meanwhile, are a country lost between looking backwards and trying to escalate time forwards.

It is not just that they lack the presence of Roger Milla, the captivating forward who so audaciously sparked that defeat of Argentina in 1990. On Saturday, they had no one remotely as powerful and as composed as Emmanuel Kande, the defender who had thighs like Mike Tyson, no one of such lightning midfield periplexity as Louis M'fiede, and no big centre forward, such as Cyrille Makanaky.

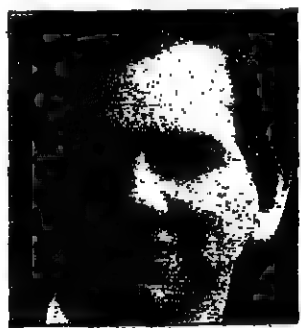
Instead, though little of body and

sometimes esoteric, they did at times embarrass England with their rhythmic short passing; alas, it lacked the explosive elements, the surprise, and when England's first goal was conjured by Paul Gascoigne, lacked even a semblance of correct tackling. Indeed, when the two tall Cameroon defenders collided in both going for the same ball and Paul Scholes, indubitably England's best performer, nipped through to flick the ball over the goalkeeper, the know-how that England possess, but Cameroon have lost, was unmistakable.

"We need to do the right things, or we risk losing the character, the spontaneity of our game," Makanaky had predicted of Cameroon seven years ago. "I've seen what happens in France. There are soccer schools everywhere, but all the youngsters end up like peas in a pod: they are all taught the same."

Makanaky, like many of his generation, had acquired the skills that were the pearls of his continent at

ROB HUGHES



At Wembley

home, unfettered by European notions of team order. We saw it in the cheek with which Milla and others could embellish the game at the highest level. They had, then, a blue-

eyed, blond, French coach, Claude Leroy, who knew how to encourage African instinct, to implant just as much order as he felt they could embrace, to meld the two without harming the end product. Leroy is now general manager at Paris Saint-Germain and one wonders if Jean Manga Onguene, the present coach of Cameroon, should not call on his services to recreate, if possible, the blend of 1990.

Even if he were persuaded, the raw material is not apparent. This, I suspect, was also foreseen. Yidnekatchew Tessema, the Ethiopian who was the first president of the African Football Confederation in 1957, had warned: "African football must make its choice. Either we keep our footballers in Africa, so that we teach them to reach the highest peaks in world competitions and restore dignity to the African people, or we let our best elements go, remaining the eternal suppliers to favoured countries abroad."

The boy Olombe looked neither embarrassed for skill and movement, nor particularly special when, on Saturday, he became a replacement for Jean-Jacques Etame, who had been Cameroon's one outstanding passer of the ball. They both play for French clubs, Etame for Bastia, Olombe for Nantes, but the difference is that Olombe has not had time to enjoy an African youth. He was plucked away in adolescence, as countless young Africans have been, particularly by French, Belgian and Italian clubs, through the past decade.

Little good does it seem to do the boys, their paymasters, their countries, or anyone but the merchants who coin off their fees as licensed FIFA agents. They are procurers of embryonic talent and they ruin the growth at a stroke.

England, thank goodness, has a more mature ideal. We saw it in the 66th minute on Saturday when Rio Ferdinand, schooled at West Ham United and already aware of the error of his ways when it comes to drink-driving, at least has roots that offer him the chance to grow into something quite special on our playing fields. Ferdinand, on as a substitute, elegantly patrolled Wembley with his tall and measured stride.

He did what Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, has been seeking from a defender: he came from the back, converting defence into attack simply by following his instinct, by using the vision that Franz Beckenbauer showed 25 years ago. When Ferdinand advanced three quarters of the field, Robbie Fowler squandered the opening; but remember that 66th minute, for it points to a brighter tomorrow for England.

Africa, if Nigeria can hold together their potential and be allowed to deliver, remains, eternally, the continent of tomorrow. England, if it nurses the opening that Saturday provided for Ferdinand, can begin to aspire to reclaim its yesterday.



Cameroon lack players with the captivating skill of Milla, right, who inspired his country in Italia 90

Keep our opinions to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

FE FOCUS

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TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

FA CUP: MARGATE AND COLWYN-BAY HAVE DREAMS OF GLORY DASHED AS LEAGUE SIDES MAKE PROGRESS

Fulham coast into second round

Margate 1
Fulham 2

BY DAVID POWELL

AGAINST the club with Harrods connections, Margate shipped till they dropped yesterday, but the gift they wanted most, a place in the second round of the FA Cup, went to Fulham. Margate, from the Dr Martens League southern division, scored first but were ultimately beaten by the superior technique and fitness of their opponents from the Nationwide League second division.

At times, the occasion seemed like a scene from Margate's seafaring, musical entertainment and soft porn overshadowing the football. Margate are sponsored by Bad Manners, the ska band whose singer, Buster Bloodvessel, went through his routine just before kick-off. The first half concluded with a streaker. Her tattoo was too small to tell from a distance which side she supported.

The peripheral acts enlivened a largely leaden tie, but one in which Margate gave everything. They did not perform with an attacking display in the spirit of the Cup's romance, though their blue and white striped shorts with red trim were eye-catching. They were copied, presumably, from the design of rock you can buy along the esplanade.

One corner in favour of Margate, to Fulham's 15, was a fair reflection of the balance of the game. Their goal apart, Margate penetrated Fulham's defence only once. For 17 minutes, though, Dreamland was not down by the beach but at Harwood Park.

That was how long the club making its first appearance for 25 years in the competition proper led their visitors, finalists in 1975, even if the sixth-minute goal was fortuitous. Martin Buglione, Margate's top scorer, justified for possession with Matt Lawrence and, when he went down, he was judged to have been fouled inside the area, although the infringement occurred just outside. Mark Munday set the chance and struck the penalty low into the corner.

"What a waste of money," came the taunting chant from among Margate's supporters.



Margate enjoy a brief moment of supremacy as Munday's penalty gives them the lead against Fulham yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

mindful that Mohamed Al Fayed is sinking millions into Fulham. They have brought Kevin Keegan to Craven Cottage as chief operating officer, Ray Wilkins as manager and two players who were central to the victory yesterday.

Paul Peschisoldo and Paul Bracewell ran the game. Peschisoldo it was who forced a fine diving save from Turner after 18 minutes. The ball ran loose to Scott, but Blondage weighed in quickly with a saving tackle.

After 23 minutes, Fulham equalised when Margate suffered the most diabolical luck, though justice was served given the controversy surrounding the home team's penalty. Carpenter's shot from 25 yards was deflected off the back of Edwards, sending the ball looping over Turner's head.

Edwards was left to reflect

on an eventful week. His wife gave birth on Thursday and he had had "very little sleep". However, he recovered from his family stress and the own goal to play a considerable part in keeping Fulham at bay.

With Blondage and Dixon, Edwards helped to form a three-man defence that coped admirably under the immense weight of Fulham possession. Turner was, on the whole, well

protected, though he had to make another sprawling save to deny Peschisoldo early in the second half.

The one chance that Margate squandered fell to Sykes, who rushed his 73rd-minute shot. Unmarked, with only Arendse to beat, he fired tamely at the goalkeeper. From there on, Fulham's superior fitness told. In an abundance of late chances, the one they took was after 78 minutes,

when Peschisoldo crossed low for Scott to deliver the winner and send Margate to their first home defeat since February.

Keegan described Margate as "well-organised". Wilkins, appearing in the first round for the first time, said that Margate's "big blokes made it uncomfortable for us". Peschisoldo thought there was little between the teams.

Chris Kinnear, the Margate manager, was disappointed

that his team did not perform better. "I did not think we played as well as we have in the last three or four weeks," he said. Never mind, there is Erith and Belvedere away on Wednesday to put that right. MARGATE (3-5-2): I. Turner — A. Blondage, W. Edwards, A. Dixon — O'Connor, M. Munday, L. Sykes, P. Peggington (sub: D. Cory, W. Smith), E. Martin — P. Sykes, M. Buglione (sub: P. Lillis, 40). FULHAM (3-5-2): A. Arendse — M. Blake, S. Morgan, M. Lawrence — P. Watson, R. Carpenter, P. Bracewell, N. Smith, R. Harris — P. Peschisoldo, R. Scott. Referee: R. Byles.

FA CUP SECOND ROUND DRAW

Northern section

Southampton United v Blackpool Town
Lincoln City v Gainsborough Trinity v Macclesfield
or Enfield
Rotherham United v Burnley v Kings Lynn
Chester City v Wrexham
Mansfield Town v York City
Wigan Athletic v York City
Oxford Athletic v Mansfield Town v Blackpool
Shrewsbury Town v Grimsby Town v Chesterfield
Huddersfield Town v Darlington or Bolton Borough
Preston North End v Notts County

Southern section

Peterborough United v Dagenham and Redbridge
Chesham United v Barnham Wood
Plymouth Argyle or Cambridge United v Canterbury
Athletic or Stevenage Borough
Torquay United v Watford
Luton Town v Carlisle City v Hendon or Leyton Orient
Bournemouth v Bristol City
Fulham v Southend United
Brentford or Colchester United v Histon United
Barnet City or Northampton Town v Wycombe
Worcestershire or Basingstoke Town

Walsley v Bristol Rovers or Gillingham
Ties to be played on Dec 5 and 7

FIRST ROUND REPLAY DATES

Nov 24: Stevenage v Canterbury, Basingstoke v Wycombe
Nov 25: Burnley v Rotherham, Gillingham v Bristol Rovers, Colchester v Brentford, Northampton v Exeter, Leyton Orient v Hendon, Gainsborough v Lincoln, Enfield v Macclesfield, Mansfield v Osham, Cambridge v Plymouth, Gillingham v Shrewsbury, Cardiff v Bournemouth
Nov 26: Bolton v Darlington

Hogg happy to head back on Wembley trail

Notts County 2
Colwyn Bay 0

BY RICHARD HOBSON

GRAEME HOGG has enjoyed a long enough career to be forgiven if he needs time to nominate his lowest moment. Instead, his reply is immediate and it speaks volumes for the enduring appeal of the FA Cup.

In 1984-85 he played for Manchester United from the third round through to a semi-final replay win against Liverpool, only to injure his groin in a league game too close to the final to enable his recovery. He watched as Kevin Moran, his locum, became the first player to be sent off in an FA Cup final and as Norman Whiteside curled the winning goal in extra time. Hogg would have been fit for the replay.

Wembley seemed a long way off yesterday afternoon as Hogg lined up in the Notts County defence for this first-round tie. He will remember the day nonetheless. With 59 minutes gone, he stooped on the edge of the six-yard box to head past Roberts after Finnan's corner had been flicked on at the near post. It was his first goal for the club and removed any likelihood of a surprise at Meadow Lane.

Colwyn Bay, from the Unibond League premier division, matched County, second in the Nationwide League third division, in every aspect bar one. They were simply unable to deal with corners. All four of County's best chances came from balls swung into the penalty area, with Richardson meeting another corner from the left with a powerful header in the 67th minute to seal the tie. In the first half, Hogg headed against the upright, while in the 53rd minute, Dudley, unmarked at the far post, missed hopelessly from four yards.

Bryn Jones, the Colwyn Bay manager, said: "Both times I watched Notts they won from set-pieces so it is disappointing to go out in this manner, but you have to accept that they are full-time

players. We can go away with pride." Jones will be back behind the counter at his butcher's shop this morning with a standing ovation from the home crowd still in his memory.

This was a more polite reception than they bestowed upon their own side. County were booed off at half-time after 45 minutes in which one almost felt sympathy for the football. On the other side of the River Trent, Brian Clough used to plant a ball on the dressing-room table and tell his players: "This is your friend." County treated it like their worst enemy. Indeed, if Tommy Jones had put Colwyn Bay ahead instead of volleying wide from 12 yards shortly after the break, the



Allardyce: delighted

home side might have struggled to respond.

Sam Allardyce, the manager, described his side's performance as "a thoroughly professional job", but the club is clearly in trouble. Last week it announced a debt of £4 million; it is losing £6,000 per week and requires regular 7,000 crowds to break even. The 3,074 who turned up yesterday were entitled to query the wisdom of parting with their money.

NOTTS COUNTY (3-5-2): D. Ward — M. Peggington, G. Brooker, G. Hogg — S. Finnan, P. Richardson (sub: S. Garry, 40), M. Roberts (sub: I. Hendon, 46), I. Richardson, D. Jones — S. Farrell (sub: G. Jones, 46), G. Dudley.
COLWYN BAY (4-4-2): R. Roberts — O. McLean, G. Calton, M. Price, S. Mann (sub: G. Dray, 84) — M. Lambert (sub: P. Connolly, 84), L. Corbridge, G. Graham, C. Lawton — J. Jones (sub: M. Woods, 88), G. Roberts. Referee: T. Jones.

Simpson banishes Hendon's blues

Hendon 2
Leyton Orient 2

BY WALTER GAMMIE

IT WAS a case of the discoloured colours of Hendon. Green paint decorated the modest main stand at Clarendon Road, green scarves were draped over the home supporters, but the team played in blue.

The switch of shirts was insisted upon by Ivor Arbiter, the Hendon chairman, as an antidote to unsettled times at a club that had sailed too close for comfort to relegation from the Ryman League premier division, and dropped too many managers overboard in the process. Such has been the support of the man who

plucks the strings at Fender Guitars, nobody was prepared to argue too loudly.

However, there was no denying traditional green at the end of a damp and drab Saturday afternoon in North London that had been lit up by an FA Cup first-round tie of rare excitement, reminding memories of Hendon's Amateur Cup and FA Cup glories of the 1960s and 1970s.

At the start, the red of Leyton Orient had looked likely to lord it, with Carl Griffin putting the Nationwide League, third division, side in front in the sixth minute after a corner by Martin Ling. Hendon clawed their way back with a break-equalising goal by Colin Simpson that at least owed something to persistence.

As Warren passed back to Hyde, the forward followed up, leapt and twisted in self-defence as the goalkeeper launched a left-foot kick and saw the ball bounce off his hip into the goal. "The manager [Frank Murphy] told us to chase and close down everything in the conditions," Simpson said.

Although Smith swiftly volleyed Orient back ahead, Simpson's second equalising goal was due reward for the pressure that Hendon exerted from the start of the second half. Hyde had pined away a fine free kick by Hyatt before Simpson stole behind the defence to head in a long cross from the touchline by White.

It was White who alerted Murphy to Simpson, 21, who had been in Hong Kong after

being released by Watford. Simpson has swiftly developed a taste for the FA Cup, having scored both goals in the 2-1 fourth-qualifying round win over St Albans City but, battered and bruised, was on the bench by the time a flash of skill by Lynch, his replacement, laid on a chance for Lewis to win the match.

"I was on my face," Simpson said. "I nearly knocked myself out leaping up. He just needed to head it a yard either side of the 'keeper and it would have been there."

HENDON (3-5-2): G. McCann — R. Nugent, A. Kelly (sub: M. Howard, 60min), S. Batesman — J. Hyatt, S. Hyatt, P. Kelly, P. Hyatt, S. Clark — C. Simpson (sub: J. Lynch, 91), J. Lewis.
LEYTON ORIENT (3-4-3): F. Hyde — M. Smith, S. Hogg, S. Hogg, S. Hogg — M. Ling, D. Smith (sub: R. Joseph, 85), D. Naylor, D. Harrison, C. Galtara, J. Harris (sub: J. Baker, 80). Referee: G. Post.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

kick-off 7.30 unless stated
* denotes all-England match

Football
Second round
Kiddminster v Huddersfield (7.45)
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Chesham v Rye, 7.45
RYMAN'S LEAGUE: First division: Romford v Woking, 7.45; Southern division: Havant v Wokingham, 7.45; Southern division: Havant v Wokingham, 7.45
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Cheltenham v Tottenham, 7.45; Second division: Cheltenham v Tottenham, 7.45
PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier division: Stoke v Aston Villa (at Newcastle Town FC, 7.45) First division: Leicester v Middlesbrough (7.45)
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Elm v Sheppey, 7.45
SCORNIFF DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Keynsham v Chippenham, 7.45
MIDNIGHT SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Premier division: Ruislip Manor v London Colney, 7.45
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Sutton v Bristol Rovers; Swanssea v Bedford T; Peterborough v Doncaster.

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: Amateur International: England v United States (at Hilton Hotel, London).
SNOKKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (at Preston).

TOMORROW

Football
COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round: Arsenal v Coventry (8.45); Derby v Newcastle (7.45); Leeds v Reading (7.45); Liverpool v Grimsby (7.45); Middlesbrough v Bolton (7.45); Oxford United v Ipswich (7.45).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bradford v Sheffield United (7.45); Second division: Bournemouth v Southend (7.45); Third division: Plymouth (7.45); Burnley v Millwall (7.45); Carlisle v Chesterfield (7.45); Fulham v York (7.45); Gillingham v Blackpool (7.45); Northampton v Brentford (7.45); Preston v Bristol Rovers (7.45); Walsley v Colchester (7.45); Wycombe v Torquay (7.45); Cambridge United v Brighton (7.45); Cardiff v Hull, 7.45; Chester v Fleetwood (7.45); Colchester v Notts County (7.45); Darlington v Leyton Orient (7.45); Histon v Lincoln (7.45); Huddersfield v Rotherham (7.45); Scarborough v Swindon; Shrewsbury v Macclesfield (7.45).
RUGBY UNION
TOUR MATCHES: Blackheath v Tonga XV

(7.45); Emerging England v New Zealand (at Middlesbrough, 7.45); Scottish Borders v ACT (at Mansfield Park, Hemick, 7.45).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European Cup: Group E: London Towers v Belgarda (7.45) (B.O.). Classic Cup: Western Cup: Quarter-final: Birmingham Bulls v Wokingham Bears (7.45).
HOCKEY: World Hockey Organisation International: Northern Hemisphere: Cheltenham v Tottenham (7.45); Southern Hemisphere: Cheltenham v Tottenham (7.45).
SNOKKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (at Preston).

WEDNESDAY

Football
COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round: Chelsea v Southampton (7.45); West Ham v Wales (7.45).
BELLS SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Rangers.

RUGBY UNION

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER CUP: Semi-final: Cheltenham v Gloucester (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Classic Cup: National Cup: Quarter-final: Sheffield Sharks v Leicester Riders (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers v London Leopards (8.0).
ICE HOCKEY: European Cup: Nottingham Panthers v Newcastle Cobras (7.30); Birmingham Bulls v Sheffield Steelers (8.0).
SNOKKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (at Preston).

THURSDAY

Football
TOUR MATCH: West Hartlepool v Tonga XV.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Unibond Trophy: Derby Storm v Leicester Riders (8.0); Classic Cup: National Cup: Quarter-final: London Towers v Manchester Giants (8.0).
ICE HOCKEY: European Cup: Cardiff Devils v Basingstoke Bison (7.30).
MOTOR RACING: British RAC Rally.
SNOKKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (at Preston).

FRIDAY

Football
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Fulham v Gillingham (7.45); Rotherham v Southport (7.45); Scarborough v Swindon; Shrewsbury v Macclesfield (7.45).
RUGBY UNION
TOUR MATCHES: Blackheath v Tonga XV

TOUR MATCH: Edinburgh v ACT (at Middlesbrough, 7.45).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Unibond Trophy: Newcastle Seals v Chester, 7.30; Macclesfield v Thames Valley Tigers (8.0).
SNOKKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (at Preston).

SATURDAY

Football
kick-off 3.0 unless stated
FA CUP: Second round: Aston Villa v Oxford United; Blackpool v Chester; Derby v Coventry; Leicester v Bolton; Liverpool v Barnsley; Newcastle v Sheffield Wednesday; Sheffield Wednesday v Arsenal; Wimbledon v Manchester United.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bury v Sunderland; "Coke" v Southport; Manchester City v Bradford; Norwich v Oxford United; Northampton Forest; Chaffron; Port Vale v Sheffield United; Portsmouth v Wetherhampton; Queens Park Rangers v Huddersfield; Reading v Ipswich; Swindon v Middlesbrough; Tottenham v Stoke. Second division: Blackpool v York; Bournemouth v Colchester; Bristol City v Wycombe; Grimsby v Burnley; Luton v Walsley; Millwall v Chesterfield; Northampton v Wellingborough; Rotherham v Southend; Wigan v Preston; Weymouth v Plymouth. Third division: Brighton v Cardiff; Colchester v Lincoln; Darlington v Cambridge United; Doncaster v Rochdale; Exeter v Shrewsbury; Hartlepool v Barnet; Leyton Orient v Notts County; Macclesfield v Hull; Peterborough v Mansfield; Scarborough v Rotherham; Swansea v Grimsby; Torquay v Southport.
VALDHAU CONFERENCE: Chesham v Garshead; Halifax v Henslow; Huddersfield v Slough; Kidderminster v Kettering; Macclesfield v Ruislip; Ruislip v Woking; Southport v Slough; Swanssea v Porthsmouth.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Unibond Trophy: Derby Storm v Leicester Riders (8.0); Classic Cup: National Cup: Quarter-final: London Towers v Manchester Giants (8.0).
ICE HOCKEY: European Cup: Cardiff Devils v Basingstoke Bison (7.30).
MOTOR RACING: British RAC Rally.
SNOKKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (at Preston).

RUGBY UNION

kick-off 3.0 unless stated
INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England v New Zealand (at Twickenham, 8.0); Scotland v Australia (at Murrayfield, 8.0).
CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER CUP: Semi-final: Cheltenham v Gloucester (7.30).
Group A: York v Osham; Northampton v Exeter (2.15). Group C: Bristol v Coventry (12.15).

Mossley v Waterloo (front). Group D: Blackheath v Richmond; London Scottish v Cambridge University (11.30).
JEWELL LEAGUE: First division: Hemmingway v Oley (2.15); Leeds v Rugby; London Scottish v Richmond; Northampton v Rugby; Nottingham v Liverpool; St Helens; Reading v Worcester (2.30); Whitehouse v Rye House Park (2.15). Second division: North: Huddersfield v Manchester (2.30); Lichfield v Kendal (2.30); Huddersfield v Huddersfield (2.30); Sandwell v Walsley (2.15); Sheffield v Accrington (2.30); Shropshire v Sedgley Park (2.30); Huddersfield v Preston; Greenock v Greenock (2.30). Second division south: Chesham v Clifton (2.30); Exeter v Hove (2.30); Hove v Cammerton (1.15); Hove v Tisbury; Plymouth v Barking (2.30); Rochdale v North Halesham (2.30); Weston-super-Mare v Bridgwater.

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Aberystwyth v Llanelli (2.0); Aberystwyth v Pontypool (2.0); Bonymen v South Wales Police (2.0); Cross Keys v Caerphilly (2.0); Neesling v Darnley (2.0); Marlton v Rhydyfelen (2.0); Treorchy v Neath (2.0); Cardiff Institute v Blackwood (2.0).

OTHER SPORT
BASKETBALL: Buxton v Crystal Palace v Newcastle Eagles (7.30); Wokingham v Manchester Glens (8.0). Unibond Trophy: Watford Royals v Birmingham Bulls (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers v London Leopards (8.0).
BOXING: European (flyweight) championship: D. Gwynn (holder) v A. Lewis (Bury) (at Boreham, Manchester).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Sheffield Steelers v Cardiff Devils (8.30); Nottingham Panthers v Newcastle Cobras (7.0); Basingstoke Bison v Sheffield Steelers (8.30).
SNOKKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (at Preston).

SUNDAY
FA CUP: Second round: Leeds v West Ham (4.0).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: West Bromwich v Birmingham (1.0).
BELLS SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Hearts v Kilmarnock (2.0).

RUGBY UNION
TOUR MATCH: West Hartlepool v Tonga XV (8.0).

OTHER SPORT
BASKETBALL: Buxton v Crystal Palace v Newcastle Eagles (7.30); Wokingham v Manchester Glens (8.0). Unibond Trophy: Watford Royals v Birmingham Bulls (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers v London Leopards (8.0).
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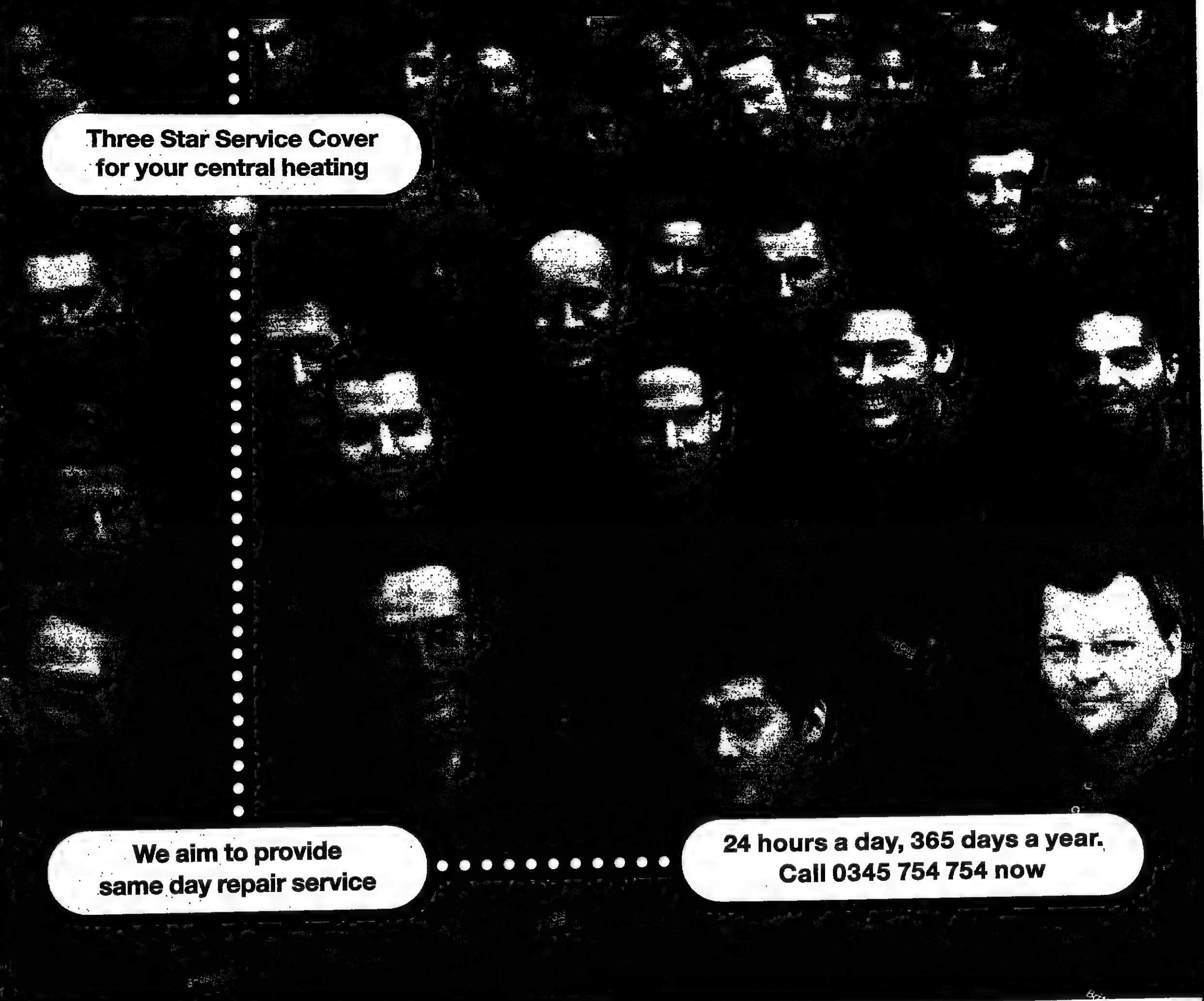
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عن كرامن الأهل

England's spirit of adventure fails to impress



By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Perry shows the determination that made the full back stand out in an otherwise lacklustre England performance. Photograph: Marc Aspland

New boys face ultimate test

BY DAVID HANDS

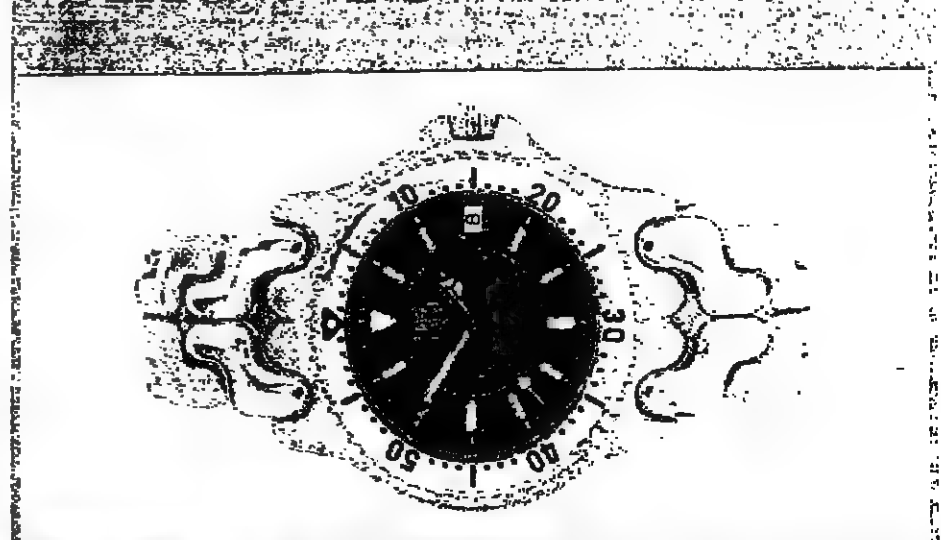
Dallaglio seeks perfect balance

Michael Calvin reports on how the new England captain prepared his fledgeling side



Dallaglio knows England's performance left room for improvement

Not even
 Kyran Bracken
 would look
 as good after
 seven years



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GOLF

Men talk their way to victory

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN PRAIA D'EL REY, PORTUGAL

THE Battle of the Sexes turned out to be less a contest more a war of words. The Seniors, captained by Tommy Horton, ran away with it over this outstanding new links course, winning the third day's singles against the women professionals of Europe by 5-4 and thus the inaugural European Cup 13-7.

When men play golf against women, the key question is how much of an advantage from the tees the men should concede to make it a test of skill and not strength. Determining this is every bit as difficult coming up with a satisfactory solution to some centuries-old religious dispute.

But in the five fourballs, on Saturday, the event's officials were at fault. The women needed more of an advantage at this form of golf, particularly on a windy day. The women were well-beaten and to all intents and purposes the competition ended there and then.

At times the event resembled a nursery game. He who squealed loudest and longest won the day. It was the men after foursomes on Friday, the women after the fourballs on Saturday and there was kind of an eerie silence after the singles.

"Our tees are too far back," the men said on Friday evening, when the first day's five foursomes had ended level, 2-2. When the tees were adjusted for the second day's play, it was the women's turn to howl. "Our tees were not far enough forward," the women said after they had been whitewashed in the fourballs and the score had moved to 7-2.

"It is totally unfair," Marie Laure de Lorenzi, the women's captain, said, ignoring the fact that the men had actually played very well (they were 3-4 under par for the 67 holes they played) and emphasizing, instead, how difficult the women found playing this course in a firm wind.

"The men had whinged after the foursomes and got what they wanted. We played well today but it was totally demoralising."

The tees were adjusted for the third day's singles to give the women a further advantage, 330 yards on the front

and 235 on the homeward nine. "We were very conscious we did not want the men to run away with the first three matches," Keith Waters, a Senior tour official, said. For a while the men did not. Trish Johnson, who went from being two up after two holes, to two down after 11, finished like a champion against Antonio Garrido. A birdie on the 16th and another on the short 17th saw her home.

In the second match, David Creamer demonstrated an unusual technique on the greens. Instead of prostrating himself in front of de Lorenzi, which is what men are inclined to do to the former model, he lay on his back to look down the line of his putt when the green sloped away from him. This unusual technique was not enough for him to stop the women's captain winning 3 and 1.

Though Jim Rhodes lost to Karen Lunn by taking a five on the 18th and Brian Waites halved his match against Maria Hjorth, the men at the rear of the field were taking control. All four won.

Matches ended with a touching display of gallantry. The women would extend their hand, the men lean forward and peck them on the cheek. Such politesse was almost always followed by brave talk about gallantry and good fun. Only Kathryn Marshall, who scored a birdie on the 18th, having won the 7th, to beat Maurice Bernbridge, openly talked of the extra edge that existed in a match such as this.

"Any competitor does not want to lose," she said, "and this female-male thing makes it much more pleasurable to win. There was a wee bit of niggles but I suppose we'll all go out together tonight, have a few drinks and have a good time."

In victory, Horton presented the image of a relieved man. So, more than likely, would men the world over. One of his team had spoken to him about the unspeakable — losing to women. "You're playing with my pension," he had said to his captain. Horton concluded: "We were all very apprehensive."

Scores, page 43



Westwood keeps his eyes on the prize during his successful bid to retain the Sumitomo Visa Taiheiyo Masters title

Japan hails Europe's rising son

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN GOTEKBA, JAPAN

THE Japanese are calling Lee Westwood Europe's Tiger Woods, and the 24-year-old from Workepo, who covets the world No 1 spot himself, did nothing to disabuse his hosts of that notion when he won one of their biggest tournaments, the Sumitomo Visa Taiheiyo Masters, for the second successive year at Goteba, near Tokyo, yesterday.

It was Westwood's third individual victory of the season (he also played a full part in Europe's Ryder Cup win at Valderrama), his second in three weeks and probably the most impressive of his short career. Three shots clear after a third round of 65, seven under par, he withstood a strong initial challenge from Mark O'Meara, the United States Ryder Cup player, and a late charge from Japan's finest — the brothers Ozaki — to win by a shot.

The Englishman's final round of 71 gave him a total of 272, 16 under par and earned him 27 million yen. It sounds like a lot of money, and it is — it translates into something like £130,000 — and Westwood's earnings in the past three weeks are in the region of £440,000, taking his prize-money for the season to more than a £1 million so far. (He made a little dent in the total by buying his father, John, a Land Rover for his fiftieth birthday today.)

This week he is competing in the Dunlop Phoenix, Japan's richest tournament. Next week his world tour — he played in Spain, where he won the Volvo Masters, and in the US, where he was second in the Subaru Sarazen World Open, in the weeks preceding the Japan jaunt — takes him to Melbourne for the Holden Australian Open.

"If I win the next two tournaments, I might buy an aeroplane," Westwood, already a seasoned globe-trotter, said.

It was far from a wistful thought, for he is a confident young man with a placid nature and takes everything as it comes. "You've got to take your chances when you're playing well and when you get on a roll, you can see yourself winning every week."

Yesterday, on another bleak day (the course is renowned for its views of Mount Fuji, but the landmark was shrouded in cloud all week) Westwood's serene temperament survived a severe test. He three-putted twice in the first five holes — at the 1st and the 5th — but reached the turn in level par thanks to birdies at the par fives, the 3rd and 6th.

O'Meara, meanwhile, had gone out in 33 and drew level, on 15 under par, with a birdie three at the 10th. The American lost his edge when he missed a two-foot birdie putt at the long 11th — where Westwood secured his four

to regain the lead — and he fell back completely with bogeys at the 15th and 16th, to leave the chase to the Ozaki boys.

Joe, a regular on the US Tour, had three successive birdie threes from the 14th to cut the lead to one, but dropped a shot at the short 17th and had to hole a 15-footer at the last for a birdie four to tie with Jumbo, Japan's No 1 and the world No 5, on 273, 15 under. Jumbo, over the showman, had finished with an eagle three but Westwood was happy to settle for a conservative, if not quite palpitation-free, five.

The last putt was only two feet, but Westwood had missed one of the same length at the 14th, and that was on his mind. It was not lost on anyone else, either, for television re-ran the miss as the Englishman was surveying his putt on the 18th. But there was to be no reprise — and no reprieve for the Ozakis.

HOCKEY

Southgate put end to reign of cup-holders

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

SOUTHGATE moved into the fifth round of the English Hockey Association Cup yesterday with a comfortable 4-1 home win against Teddington, the holders. Reading, the runners-up last year, had better luck with a 4-2 victory at East Grinstead.

Duncan Woods converted two short corners for Southgate, whose sharper reactions inside the circle paid dividends. Teddington made little headway against the home side's sound defence and found their rhythm only in the last ten minutes. Further goals by Shaw and Carolan pushed Southgate into a 4-0 lead before Wallis scored from a short corner in the 66th minute for Teddington.

Reading took control of their match against East Grinstead in the second half after an interval score of 1-1. Ashdown scored two goals for Reading, one from a short corner, with Pearn and Wyatt, from a short corner, chipping in. Welsh, from a short corner, and Laird replied.

Canterbury recorded the day's highest score with a 10-5 victory at home against Guildford. Denny Laslett hitting the target four times for

Canterbury from open play. Other premier division clubs to survive were Cannock, Bessent, Doncaster, Hounslow, Old Loughtonians and Barford Tigers.

Hounslow were taken to extra time by Surbiton with the score at 2-2. Gillmon scoring for Hounslow in the 81st minute from a short corner for a 3-2 victory.

The only non-league clubs left in the competition are Chichester, Ipswich, Spalding and Old Cranleighans. Sheffield went down 4-3 to Chichester after Chichester had led 3-2 by half-time. The scorers for Chichester were Savory (two) and Lock, who converted two short corners. The goals for Sheffield were obtained by Cordon, Bradshaw from a short corner and McAuliffe.

Cannock's 3-3 draw against East Grinstead in the national league on Saturday kept them on top of the premier division, a point ahead of Southgate, who defeated Guildford 4-0. Simons scored twice for Southgate, with Attala and Shaw adding to the score. Bhatti saved East Grinstead from defeat at home with an equalising goal two minutes before the end.

Ipswich bow out

SUTTON COLDFIELD made amends for their dismal display in front of goal in their 2-1 defeat by Ipswich in the premier division on Saturday with a 3-0 win over the Suffolk team in the third round of the EHA Cup yesterday (Cathy Harris writes).

The league result keeps Ipswich in second place in the table behind the unbeaten champions and title favourites, Slough, who swept to a 6-3 victory against Trojans. "Our season is effectively over because we have very little realistic chance of defeating Slough," Donna Mills, the Ipswich manager, said. "We have a growing list of injuries and are just hoping to have 11 fit players for Saturday's game against them. Our backs are against the wall."

Determined to improve their lowly league position, Sutton paid a heavy price after Charlotte Merrett missed two first-half opportunities, and Louise Turney blundered three times in a five-minute spell after the break, against Ipswich. Jane Sixsmith levelled after Tracy Fry opened the scoring from a 24th-minute penalty corner, before Sarah Bamfield finished in style.

Seizing on their opportunities in the cup match, Sutton booked their place in the fourth round with a much-improved performance. Nicky Hickdon set them on their way in the seventh minute, before Sixsmith and Turney took the game beyond Ipswich.

Slough romped home 9-0 against Sherwood but Hightown, the holders, were taken to a penalty shoot-out by non-league Hampton and Westminster after drawing 1-1. Kate Walsh, Tina Cullen, who hit the equaliser, and Fiona Lee all scored from the spot to put the Merseysiders through.

Results, page 43

CRICKET: PAKISTAN'S EMERGING TALENTS MAKE THEM SLIGHT FAVOURITES TO BEAT WEST INDIES

Wasim's return should tilt Test balance

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

TWO teams with a sense of mission begin the Test match that starts today in this frontier city close to the Khyber Pass. Pakistan have just been beaten at home by South Africa; West Indies want to amend the widely held view that the modern game is passing them by. Failure for either could have significant consequences.

Having inspected a dry, cracked pitch that is expected to offer turn sooner rather than later, both sides will test debuts to slow bowlers. West Indies will rely on Rawl Lewis, a 23-year-old leg spinner from the Windward Islands, to support the familiar pace team of Walsh, Ambrose and Bishop. Pakistan have promoted a local off-spinner, Arshad Khan, who plays ahead of Saqlain Mustaq in the first game of a three-match series.

Wasim Akram, restored to the captaincy now that his injured shoulder has healed, explained that Saqlain, who played for Surrey in the county championship in the summer, had mislaid his best form against South Africa. Arshad, at 26 a veteran by Pakistani standards, partners Mushaq Ahmed in an attack that is also without Waqar Younis.

Shahid Nazir is preferred to Waqar, whose absence is accounted for by the

long-standing foot injury that has clipped two yards off his fastest pace and by the flatness of the pitch. Haroon Rashid, the team manager, thought it best to conserve the bowler's fitness for the subsequent Tests in Rawalpindi and Karachi, where he hoped the pitches would be livelier.

Pakistan have never been short of talented young players but, at the moment, they appear to have an embarrassment of riches. In order to accommodate Aamir Sohail, who moves up to his customary opener's position, they have left out Ali Naqvi, who, three Tests ago, made a century on his debut. Nor is there room for Hasan Raza, the wonder boy, last year, or Shahid Afridi, who has blotted his copybook by going off to play in Bangladesh without the board's consent.

It is never easy to gauge the mood of the Pakistan team. To infer too much from the recent defeat against South Africa and their indifferent form in the one-day competition that followed would be erroneous. They remain a side chock-full of brilliant players and, now that Wasim is back to apply a steady hand on the tiller, they must be favoured to beat West Indies.

This is a busy winter of international cricket for Pakistan, who play fewer Test matches than the other established nations. In the new year they go



Wasim: restored to captaincy

to South Africa for three more Tests and, if Wasim is not to be a victim of pass-the-parcel, the game by which this country tends to appoint its captains, his men really need to win this series.

There is a smell of decay about their opponents. Clive Lloyd, the team manager, is entitled to point out that they have lost only one series away from the Caribbean in the past 17

years, but this side has been in decline for at least three years, sustained in that time by the astonishing tenacity of Walsh and Ambrose and the sporadic brilliance of Lara.

It is asking a lot of young Lewis to pitch him in for a debut in conditions that are as foreign to these players as they could possibly be. When they ruled the roost with their divisions of fast bowlers, West Indies abandoned the art of spin bowling as a means of winning matches. Now they are struggling to find fast bowlers of the necessary quality.

Walsh, 35, and Ambrose, a year junior, are approaching the end of their distinguished Test careers. They have taken 645 wickets between them and have hardly missed a match in the course of their labours. Bishop, deprived by injury of the chance to become truly great, has also turned 30. Before long, it seems, Rose and Dillon may be leading the attack. It does not sound a frightening prospect.

Campbell and Stuart Williams retain their places at the top of the order, despite a claim by the uncapped Philo Wallace, who made a career-best 142 against an Invitation XI in Rawalpindi last week. There is an English presence in Peshawar. David Shepherd is standing as the neutral umpire and Raman Subba Row is the match referee.

Headache for Higgins as Ponting threatens upset

JOHN HIGGINS today requires the strongest fightback of his short but highly successful professional career in order to prevent the most surprising result of the Nineties at the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship in Preston.

After a session he would prefer to forget, Higgins, edged out 10-9 by Stephen Hendry in the final last year, is trailing Gary Ponting, of Bristol, 7-1 and is within two frames of elimination.

Runner-up in the Grand Prix last month and for some time Hendry's closest pursuer in the world rankings, Higgins has rarely performed less effectively. Ponting, the world No 84, did nothing particularly special, but pulled away steadily.

A clearance of 42 enabled Higgins to steal the sixth frame on the pink, but he could not generate any momentum. Already frustrated by his form, the Scot had no luck in the closing frame of the

SNOOKER

By PHIL YATES

afternoon when he went in-off after potting the brown and Ponting cleared up.

Ponting, qualified for the final televised stages of the 1994 World Championship as a rookie, but, prone to niggles, he has made little impact since. Before this tournament, he had failed to win a match this season.

Hendry's 5-2 defeat by Tai Pichit, an amateur wild-card entry, in the first round of the 1994 Thailand Open, is generally regarded as the biggest upset of the decade, but unless Higgins can win eight of the remaining nine frames, that will be overturned.

Higgins rallied from a 6-1 deficit to beat Tony Drago 9-8 12 months ago, but an immeasurable improvement will be needed to block Ponting's path into the last 32.

On the eve of the World Championship this year, Ken Doherty was criticised publicly by Ian Doyle, his manager,

as "unprofessional". It was the motivational prod the Irishman required and he went on to capture the title.

Fast forward six months and again Doherty has discovered a timely source of inspiration as he attempts to join Steve Davis, John Parrott and Hendry as the only player to complete the World and UK Championship double in the same year.

To say Doherty was annoyed by the bookmakers installing him as 20-1 outsider would be an exaggeration. Nevertheless, he is justified in believing his achievement at the Crucible has been undervalued and is determined to prove them wrong.

"To make me 20-1 is an absolute joke," Doherty, who reached the third round on Saturday with a 9-5 victory over Karl Broughman, said. "I'm not a gambler myself, but I know good value when I see it and I'm sure a few folks back home will take advantage."

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JAMAICA

Broadcasters strive to get on rugby wavelength

According to Mark Durden-Smith, this was phase one of Mission Southern Hemisphere. For Clive Woodward, it was phase one of Mission Rebuild. And, for BSkyB, it was phase one of let's-make-this-as-much-like-Grandstand-as-we-possibly-can.

It was an uncharacteristically unadventurous approach by the satellite broadcaster, but then rugby has always been a conservative game. Investing in a satellite dish was considered enough of a shock to be going on with.

The plan now is to make England rugby fans feel at home as quickly as possible. Familiarity came in the form of Nick Farr-Jones, the former Australia captain, whose technical analysis has been one of the cornerstones of the BBC's five nations' coverage in the past few seasons, and Bill Beaumont, whose broadcasting career looked to have come to an end last season along with the BBC's contract.

As for gently reminding people that England's home internationals are now on satellite, I can't think of a better way than with four games against the three best sides in the world over successive weekends.

Sky's studio foursome was completed by some home-grown talent. Durden-Smith, who with half a season presenting club rugby behind him is already a competent anchor man, and Stuart Barnes, its fast-talking expert

summariser. The effect was good, but it could have been better.

What it lacked was a representative from the Will Carling glory years, years that changed the public perception of English rugby forever by making it both glamorous and fashionable. Carling himself was the obvious choice, so obvious that ITV had snapped him up to front their recorded coverage, which, thanks to the delayed kick-off at Twickenham, got underway barely 15 minutes after the final whistle had blown.

On the BBC, it was a position that the articulate Rob Andrew made his own, so there was a certain justice in watching Barnes, his perennial understudy, seeking to do



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

the same on Sky. But, for all his caption reading "England 84-93", you don't have to be a rugby historian to know that's not quite the whole story.

If suggesting Barnes make way again sounds harsh, it isn't, for two reasons. First, Barnes's successful media career is founded on his maverick reputation, the angry outsider — that's why Sky chose him in the first place for their club coverage. Only for

international does he need to make way for somebody who was an automatic first choice — an Andrew, an Underwood, a Moore.

The second reason why Barnes could painlessly vacate a studio chair is that he wouldn't have to move very far. His double-handed commentary with the enjoyably reliable Miles Harrison may lack the poetry of Bill McLaren but, in terms of

accuracy and instant analysis, it's top notch. Barnes is also the natural first choice for perhaps the main thing lacking on Saturday's build-up, a recorded, set-piece interview with Clive Woodward, the new England coach. Graham Simmons, Sky's roving reporter, did well with a couple of hastily grabbed minutes, but England's first game under its new coach needed something more formal to set the scene.

But, if Sky's studio panel needs a bit of gentle retraining, then ITV's needed a serious rethink. Having spent all its money on Carling, his studio guests were Bob Dwyer and Damian Hopley. These are guests for rugby's cognoscenti, not for mass-market terrestrial television. Ironically, the

obvious house-wife's choice candidate appeared the other side of the early evening news when Jeremy Gossett presented *Gladiators*.

Carling himself was fine — indeed, the biggest challenge he seemed to face was squeezing those famously arrogant features into something resembling a welcoming smile. Bit more practice and he might actually manage it.

For the match itself, ITV fielded probably the strongest of its commentary teams from the last World Cup, John Taylor and Steve Smith. The pictures were exactly the same as Sky's, except for the fact that its replays didn't make that maddening "whoosh, whoosh" noise.

More than once, Sky had

reason to regret its passion for replays. In the first half, a quickly-taken penalty was dangerously missed, while, in the second, the director seemed to be under the illusion that the ball was immediately "dead" after a missed penalty kick.

But, all in all, it was a good weekend for rugby on television. Sky got its feet under the table at Twickenham, ITV ensured that the next World Cup won't come as quite the culture shock the last did and the BBC showed, if not entirely convincingly with live coverage of the one-sided encounter between Ireland and the All Blacks and Wales versus Tonga, that there is life after England. It, too, has better weekends to come.

Streets of Dublin paved with qualified optimism and peculiar logic on day of international setbacks

Irish take defeats in their stride

A fine, cautious distinction was current everywhere in Dublin on Saturday. "More hopeful than optimistic" was how it went. Very Irish, you might think, but in the circumstances it made good sense. Ireland were playing the All Blacks in the afternoon at Lansdowne Road (chance of winning: nil), with a last-ditch football World Cup qualifier against Belgium in Brussels in the evening.

"Judgment Day", the newspapers rather recklessly called it. But only a fool would pin too much on the outcome of a day so obviously loaded against the green-shirted from the start. "Give 'em laces", exhorted one paper railyweek. But, to reflect the real mood, it might have added, in smaller letters, "Or give it a try, anyway."

I was optimistic myself. But that was before I started to read about the Ireland team, and was obliged to fall in with the thumbs-down realists. Because, it turns out sadly, whereas a few years ago Jack Charlton led a stout-hearted team to undreamt-of international honours, things have changed recently, and nobody mentions Macedonia around here unless they're ordering a fruit salad.

The trouble is linked to demography. By some accident of births, deaths and retirements, Mick McCarthy's side is a spatchcock of retirement-ready, battle-scarred gaffers and demoralised babes-in-arms, with scarcely an able-bodied, first-team footballer.

Moreover, two weeks previously, in the home leg against Belgium, the boys in green had performed so badly that they had been lucky to escape with a 1-1 draw. Luc Nilis wrought havoc, and McCarthy's future as manager was called into question.

"Bring back Jack," a woman at the bus stop said on Friday. "Joe Kinnear's your man," a bloke in O'Neills, a Dublin pub, said

LYNNE TRUSS



before the match on Saturday. Although the bloke was so drunk he couldn't work out how to dismount a bar stool, that sounded rather astute.

Nevertheless, come on, you boys in green. Forget the rugby result. Forget this Nilis chap. This isn't a funeral. Ask yourself, are you really scared of Belgium? Personally, I didn't really understand why Belgium would be such a terrifying opponent, in any case. People don't generally quake at the name. True, Jean-Claude van Damme is a Belgian, but then so was that gentle fellow, René Magritte. Just imagine the Belgians all playing with tubas on their heads. That ought to help, surely.

Going out on the Guinness in Dublin after a rugby international, when 49,000 disgruntled people might have the same idea, would be against my natural instinct ordinarily, so I'm ashamed to say I made Simon Barnes, my colleague at *The Times*, come with me to watch the footie on television in



Enthusiastic supporters in Dublin are still able to raise a glass and a smile, despite witnessing defeats for the Ireland rugby union and football teams

O'Neills. This was rather useful as he can quote James Joyce in big chunks.

Our position under a staircase started out as a fine observational place, but became more problematical as the evening progressed, and the hundreds drinking Guinness and shouting at the tops of their voices in this heating, hot pub turned to thousands. We could always see the screen, but the trouble is that, the more you retreat under a staircase, the more you contort your neck and the more you bang your head every time something exciting happens.

And the game really was exciting — far better, by all accounts, than the first leg. Leaving aside Belgium's first goal (too painful),

there was the excitement when the ref didn't give a penalty against Ireland (tee-hee), the considerable head-banging burst of joy when Ray Houghton equalised ten minutes into the second half; and then the dubious excitement when the ref gave a throw-in to the wrong bloke, leading to Belgium's second goal in the 68th minute — an elegant, not-to-say-miraculous, back-to-the-goal, over-the-shoulder chip by Mike Verstraeten that confused Shay Given and left a chance for Nilis to score again.

At this point, the reaction of the drinkers diverged from expectation, becoming oddly familiar from Irish beer commercials. Because, for heaven's sake, like the Murphy's, at 2-1 down, they

weren't bitter. "No, this is good, Belgium's goal is good for us," a bloke to our left reasoned. "It will make us score again, and then we'll win." He and his mates were having a seminar about the away-goals rule and how it was now in their favour.

Sports fans do this the world over — explain the scoring to each other. It's sweet. On Saturday night, of course, the aggregate system needed thinking about, because a Belgium goal was now worth less than an Ireland goal. Aha. Right. So, in a funny sort of way, by scoring that second goal (and taking the lead), Belgium had virtually handed the game over to

Ireland. I chipped in at this point. "And the thing is, the Belgians can't score again in Ireland, can they?" "Well," he said, "only on their holidays, but that wouldn't count."

Sadly, Belgium's kind-hearted strategy failed in the end, and Ireland did not give them any further lackery to speak of. Even when David Connolly was sent off, and Simon reasonably asserted, "down to ten men: that will make them do it", the Irish players failed to take their cue, and suddenly it was all over. The dream had died, and all that.

False dawns had given way to black days. Another pint, Simon? Do that James Joyce thing again. Remind me how you get off this

bar stool. All that. Naturally, one was very sad (and a bit drunk), although I couldn't help thinking of a bloke who told me, in apparent seriousness, that qualifying for the World Cup would just bring a lot of tension to next summer, you know?

"That's a novel way of looking at it," I said. But it's odd: before Saturday, I got the feeling the Irish were fed up with this World Cup already, and weren't unhappy to be spared the extra misery of competing in the finals. Another two years, however, and they'll be ready to try to qualify for the 2000 European championship. Let's just hope that Ireland's own version of McCarthyism doesn't witch-hunt McCarthy before then.

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Ethics and Formula One

From Mr Nick Bittel

Sir, In all the furore over why the Government took the decision to exempt motor racing from the ban on tobacco sponsorship the actual decision seems to have been largely ignored.

Sport is not merely about employment or foreign earnings. Sport has the ability to inspire. At its best, sport is the stuff of souls. We have a duty as guardians of sport not just to the bottom line but also to those who look to sport for their inspiration.

Sport should stand up clearly and say that accepting tobacco sponsorship is an abrogation of this duty.

Yours faithfully,
NICK BITTEL,
Chief Executive,
London Marathon,
PO Box 1234, London SE1.
office@mbg.co.uk

From Mr Iain Quick

Sir, Jacques Villeneuve, within seconds of a World Championship win, makes way for another driver to win his first grand prix race.

Sporting, considerate, mature, tactically wise? Not a bit of it. That he was alleged to

have been ordered to do so by his team brings your opprobrium heaped upon him, them and the Formula One organisers.

Am I missing something?

Yours faithfully,
IAIN QUICK,
Brook Cottage,
Pork Lane,
Gt Holland,
Essex.

From Mr Philip Baker

Sir, A lifelong enthusiast for motor sport in most of its guises, I have been following the unfolding of the Schumacher debacle with growing dismay.

It became apparent many years ago that Formula One, the supposed pinnacle of the sport, had ceased to be a sport at all, but what saddens me now is that it can no longer be bothered to pretend.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP BAKER,
19 Marley Close,
Addlestone,
Surrey.

From Mr Robin Beare

Sir, The likelihood of collision between Formula One Teams and their drivers, together seeking to fix the result of a grand prix race (Report, November 10), would be much reduced if not eliminated were the Formula One authorities completely to ban radio com-

Blowing the whistle on Premiership referees

From Mr W. Benjamin

Sir, I read Lynne Truss's articles on referees (November 1 and 3) with interest but I am afraid that I disagree with her conclusions.

When did she last see a football match which was not marred in some way or other by the decisions of the officials in charge? Frank Leboeuf was a little nearer the mark (November 1) but I do not think things will or can improve until all the Premiership managers get together and insist that offending referees are charged by the FA with bringing the game into disrepute — for that is what they are doing, especially when a game is televised and their incompetence, inconsistency and in some cases apparent bias are there for all to see.

Referees should have to justify their decision: in front of a panel consisting of representatives from the FA management and players and, if the match was televised, then in front of the

viewing public. Only when referees can be seen to be consistent and unbiased will they get the respect that they keep on talking about.

Yours faithfully,
W BENJAMIN,
7 Bramford Court, High Street, Southgate, London.

From Mr R. Granville

Sir, In Michael Henderson's report of the Bolton-Liverpool game, he refers to referees as having to do their job "for petrol money and a shandy". In fact, Premiership referees get £375 a match plus travel and food expenses. So for an afternoon's work they receive as much as many people in this country receive for working all week.

Yours sincerely,
R GRANVILLE,
76 Compton Road, Hayes, Middlesex.

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, I was interested to read Mrs Jan Hartshorn's comments (Sports Letters, November 10) describing Michael Schumacher's courtesy and politeness when dealing with waiters in the hotel where she worked. However, those waiters should remember that they were not trying to overtake Schumacher in a Formula One race.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.

From Mr David Simpson

Sir, The sooner the pit lane circus that passes as Formula One carries out its threat to disappear to the Far East in a cloud of tyre and cigarette smoke the better for motor sport.

Cheating on the track and fixing the results are incompatible with the concepts of fair play and integrity which legitimise sporting achievement.

DAVID SIMPSON,
10 Ruscombe Gardens,
Datchet,
Berkshire.

From Mr Robert Lefroy

Sir, Ferrari did not deserve the 1997 championship as it demonstrated a lamentable lack of planning.

True professionals would follow the lead of American football and use blockers to take the opposition out, ensuring that Schumacher had an untroubled run to the line.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LEFROY,
Business Money Publications,
Strode House,
Street, Somerset.

From Mr David Eves

Sir, Is Michael Schumacher related to Harald Schumacher, the former West German goalkeeper, who committed the most horrendous foul on Patric Batistion in the World Cup semi-final in Seville in 1982 to prevent France reaching the final, but was not even shown a yellow card, let alone a red one? Was that also an "accident"?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID EVES,
Green Street, St Helier,
Jersey, Channel Islands.

Football academies

From Mr Geoffrey Carver

Sir, The Professional Association of Teachers is seriously concerned that the football academies to be created by Premiership clubs will pre-

vent pupils from playing football for their school teams, seriously damaging inter-school sports. The amount of training and travelling time will also have a detrimental effect on their education.

Education should not, and must not, take second place to apparent attempts by some wealthy clubs to secure talent for themselves. Few of the pupils selected will make it as professionals. Those who do not will have their education disrupted and could miss out on important qualifications.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY CARVER,
(PAT Senior Professional Officer),
2 St James' Court,
Friar Gate, Derby.

Albatross award

From Mr M. Molony

Sir, Is there an honour bestowed on golfers obtaining an albatross? I know of the Hole-In-One Society and the Ferrer Club but not of an Albatross Club. Recently a junior member at my club, Leatherhead, shot a two at our first hole — par five — and incidentally shot a three on our 16th — par five.

Yours faithfully,
M. MOLONY,
18 Carew Court,
Basinghall Gardens,
Sutton, Surrey.

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**
Martina Hingis aims to finish the tennis year in style at the Chase Championship. Alix Ramsay reports from New York.

■ **Wednesday**
Having beaten Leicester and Sheffield Wednesday Grimsby continue their Coca-Cola Cup campaign at Liverpool.

■ **Thursday**
Which of six short-listed sports books will win the William Hill award for 1997?

■ **Saturday**
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match. Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Danny Baker.

THE TIMES

Under the skin of sport

No firm favourites as 14 teams tee off at La Manga

By Mel Webb

THE DIVERSITY of the winning teams in the regional final series of the leading corporate golf tournament in the British Isles knocked the stuffing out of the Orwellian assertion that all are created equal, but some are more equal than others.

A total of 1,404 amateur golfers entered The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge. Representing 351 teams, they took part in the 14-event qualifying competition for the right to play in the national final, in Spain this week.

When they step on to the first tee on the South Course at La Manga on Thursday for the first of two rounds, it will not matter if they are representing small, local firms or huge, multinational concerns.

The Challenge is designed to be all things to all corporate entities. If the regional finals are an indicator, that aim was realised brilliantly last month.

For instance, the Northern England regional final at Sleaford in October was won by Derry Landscapes and Garden Design, Leeds-based water garden designers and builders. Not even Peter Jenson, the firm's owner and captain of its team, would claim that his company was in the same financial league as Citibank, the New York-based banking giant, who won the Central Home Counties event at Duke's Dene. But, when the going gets tough in La Manga, global status will count for nothing.

Therein, perhaps, lies one of the enduring charms of this competition and within it, too, one of the great strengths of the game itself. In golf, all truly are equal.

In no other game can the rabbit give the tiger a decent



match, thanks to the wonders of the handicap system. At La Manga there will be 34-handicappers and low single-figure men, and the modest performer is just as likely to be a member of the winning team as the highly talented one.

The handicap allowance for the Challenge was changed this year from seven-eighths to three-quarters of handicap. This has produced closer finishes and made scores tougher to acquire as well as ending the anomalous granting of two shots on certain holes to high-handicap players. This was a good, positive step; the competition is the better for it.

The practice of putting the four players in each team out

together in the regional finals was also abandoned in favour of splitting teams into two two-balls who played with two players from other teams. The main reason for the change was to put the scores of each team above suspicion because players' scores would be recorded by the opposition.

There was another, unexpected, but nonetheless welcome, spin-off from that simple move. More than 90 per cent of the players welcomed the change, not only for obvious reasons, but also because the feeling was that the split forced each player to concentrate even more on his own game.

There could be no let-up — when you do not know what your team-mates scored on a given hole, it makes you think that little bit harder, stretches your own resolve by another notch. It was another improvement; the change is sure to become a permanent feature of the competition.

The Challenge has set a standard during the past five years to which others aspire, and part of that standard lies in the quality of the regional final venues. Some of the finest courses in the British Isles were visited, including, for the first time, the K Club, near Dublin, which is sure to be among the frontrunners to be the chosen venue when the Ryder Cup goes to Ireland in 2005.

Only one of the magnificent 14 teams will be making a return visit to La Manga: two members of the Drakes Group team, winners at Bocket Hall, represented the company there in 1995. Their small local knowledge will be a potent weapon.

Or, perhaps, no use at all. They have a chance to be more equal than the others — only time will tell.



The Ireland regional final was held at the K Club, near Dublin, a possible venue for the Ryder Cup in 2005



Revised second round draw

to be played on or before DECEMBER 13, 1997

Burton v Nottingham Forest	Blackpool v Everton
Leicester v Liverpool	Bury
v Peterborough or Doncaster	Aston Villa or Notts County
v Walsell	Bradford v Bolton
Shrewsbury	v Stoke or Wolverhampton
Sheffield Utd v Tranmere	Sunderland v Crewe
Leeds v Oldham	York v Middlesbrough
West Bromwich	v Manchester City
Newcastle v Burnley	Blackburn v Manchester Utd
Walsall and Harslem or	Rushden and Diamonds
v Charlton	Southampton v Histon
West Ham v Millwall	Torquay or Leyton Orient
v Bristol City	Westford
v Gillingham or Northampton	Norwich v Crystal Palace
Enfield	v Swindon or Bristol Rovers
Chelsea v Wimbledon	Portsmouth
v Erith and Belvedere	Ipwich
v Crawley or Great Wakering	Svenesse or Bedford
v Brentford	Exeter v Arsenal
Queens Park Rangers	v Southend
Tottenham v Reading	Coventry v Luton
Plymouth v Fulham	Wycombe v Welling or Dulwich
Woking or Brighton	v Gillingham

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THE TIMES

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Starting today, *The Times* launches its Christmas collection of traditional carols and music that captures the mood of the festive season. There are five CDs at only £1.98 each (£2.98 in Eire and EC). When you buy all five, you are given the sixth, highlights from Handel's *Messiah*, FREE.

The free CD is performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Scottish Philharmonic Singers. Excerpts include Hallelujah (chorus), Worthy Is The Lamb That Was Slain (chorus), Comfort Ye My People (recit) and The Trumpet Shall Sound (air).

Every day this week we will feature a different title from the set. The first is: *Christmas with St Paul's Cathedral Choir*, accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under conductor John Scott. They perform a programme of 13 familiar and lesser known carols (listed below).

With 75 tracks adding up to almost five hours of music, the six CDs provide the perfect background music for your seasonal celebrations.

To receive your CDs before Christmas, your order must be posted to arrive by Friday, December 5. FREE p&p in the UK. The offer closes Dec 31, 1997.

TRACK LISTING:

Fantasy on Christmas Carols (The Holly and The Ivy); Sleepers, Wake; The Sussex Mummers' Christmas Carol; A Legend; A Spotless Rose; Sleigh Ride; The Noble Stem of Jesse; Es Ist Ein Ros Entsprungen; A Christmas Sequence; Bethlehem Down; A Maid Peerless; A New Year Carol; Christmas Day.



TODAY'S CD: *Christmas with St Paul's Cathedral Choir*

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CHANGING TIMES

"Now all I want is a single board and a wide open mountain" — Victoria Walker discovers snowboarding



Regular or goofy? Victoria Walker stands on the board (which she describes as a "small ironing board") at a 90 degree angle to the front. The leading leg is the one closest to the front. Left-footed riders are called regular and right-footed, goofy

It simply takes great attitude

Snowboarding takes attitude. With his fashionable sideburns and neatly trimmed goatee, my instructor at the Tamworth Snowdome, John Sewell, oozed it. He advocated it, too: "The main thing is a positive attitude. It will not work for you if you are tense. You must have confidence in yourself."

This wasn't just bravado. Like surfing or skiing, the key to success is balance. Good posture is paramount; if you are tense and lean too far forward or too far back (in the mistaken belief that the closer you get to the ground, the less it will hurt if you fall), you will tumble.

Snowboards are about a foot across, and when stood on end should reach somewhere between your chest and nose.

Longer boards tend to be harder to manoeuvre for novices. Unlike a skier, the snowboarder stands on the board at a 90 degree angle to the front. The leading leg is the one closest to the front of the board. Left-footed people are called regular and, for reasons quite beyond me, right-footed riders are called goofy. (I feel a little sensitive about these terms and am not saying if I am right or left-footed.)

Curiously enough, before standing me on what I thought resembled a small ironing board, Sewell informed me that my first lesson was to involve some role reversal — I was to be the instructor guiding him down the slope. After my initial surprise, I saw that he wanted me to walk with him so that I could clearly see what he expected me to do.



Holding on to Sewell's hands, I walked in front of him as he demonstrated how to catch and release the toe edge of his board in the snow. This is called a side-slip. The board remains square to the slope, with the rider facing downhill. Sewell then repeated this exercise facing up the slope and

digging with his heel edge. Although this felt a little strange initially, it was quite an easy technique to master, simply involving raising toes or heels.

The second task I was to learn was the aptly named "falling-leaf". The descent of the slope by the rider is similar to that of an autumn leaf as it falls from a tree and glides to the ground in a gentle zigzag pattern. Traversing the slope with pressure on either my toe or heel edge I made my hesitant, slow way back and forth down the hill.

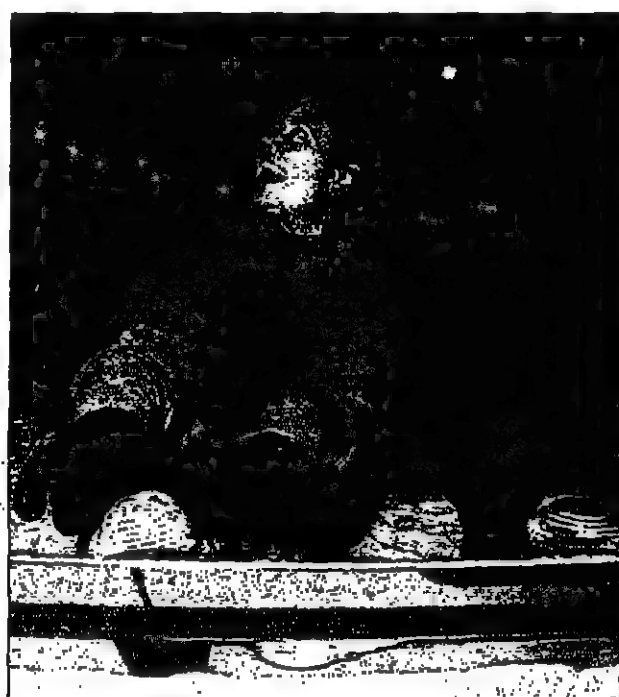
The wonderful thing was that after only ten minutes I was, effectively, snowboarding. Novice skiers must endure days on end of mastering technical skills such as the "snowplough" before graduating on to "parallels". But you

can't do snowploughs on a single board. So although there is much to learn and leading boarders can perform breathtaking feats, it did not seem to me as technically demanding as skiing.

Sewell then taught me how to traverse the breadth of the 30-metre slope before gently nudging me into a "straight" — facing directly downhill rather than meandering from side-to-side. In the sport's organic terminology these techniques are linked to form "garlands".

After an hour-long lesson it would be wrong to say that I could snowboard — I had still to master turns, for example, but I felt I was well on the way. Skiing, I have decided, is for foot-loos. For me, all I want is a single board and a wide open mountain. It appears I am not alone with such sentiments. "I will never go back to skiing," said Drew Roberts, 22, who has been snowboarding for almost three years.

Simon Smith is 25 and has been skiing for ten years. Two months ago he tried snowboarding for the first time and is hooked. "I found it quite easy to make the change from skiing to boarding," he said. "I was getting bored with skiing



For the learner, snowboarding is not as demanding as skiing

and wanted to try something new."

One of the most surprising things about snowboarding is just how civilised the kit is. The board is easy to carry. After having proved myself a

menace to pedestrians every time I carried skis, this was a joy to discover. Carrying one plank instead of two made a world of difference, and because it was shorter, I found I could hook it under my arm

just like a commuter carrying a rolled-up copy of *The Times* — well almost.

The boots, too, bear more resemblance to my favourite pair of walking boots than the hard and inflexible ski-boot. Padded, warm, with a well-marked tread and lace-ups, the boots clip into fixings attached to the board. I found I was comfortable walking both on snow and indoors with none of the ridiculous slow-motion "moonwalking" that ski-boots impose.

The clothing should keep you warm and dry, so gloves, water-proof, padded trousers and jackets are a must. The strength of the snowboarding culture means that there is a wealth of fashionable gear. Many of these snowboarding labels are leading the way in ski-wear design. The clothing I wore came from Snowboard Asylum, though normal ski-gear is also fine for snowboarding. Salopettes with reinforced knees and bottoms are a good idea because they tend to get more wear and tear. Many snowboarders also like to wear longer jackets to ensure their bottoms stay warm and dry.

Skateboarders aiming higher and higher

BY IVO TENNANT

According to those who have ridden the "vert ramp" and the street skate course, it is the most difficult of all sports to master. This is not officially recognised and it will never become an Olympic event. Yet for an exacting level of technique allied to sheer guts and gumption, skateboarding is regarded by its many participants as the non-parade.

What is often construed as no more than an irritating activity on pavements and footpaths by callow youths is, along with snowboarding, an increasingly attractive sport for young people. The Board X Festival '97, held in Battersea Park over the last three days and sponsored by *The Times*, attracted around 10,000 spectators. Many were novices who progressed, in due course, on to the ski slopes.

It is more than 15 years since a bunch of surfers from California took their boards up a mountain and reckoned that coming down on them was more fun than sitting on a tea tray. Hence snowboarding was born. This has progressed to the point at which it will be included in the next Winter Olympics in Japan. Skateboarding is another matter. Indeed, there is no particular desire to have it classified as a recognised sport at all.

There are obvious similarities. Snowboarding is visible on mountain slopes all over the world; it is estimated that by the turn of the century there will be as many boarders as skiers. Some ski resorts do not permit them, owing to a perception that the activity is dangerous, but most of the participants, those in the 18-26 age range, do not concern themselves with that.



A competitor in last week's Board X Festival in London

As with skateboarding, there is an incessant desire to jump higher and higher. Rune Clifberg, from California, who is regarded as one of the best skaters in the world, demonstrated as much indoors when the outdoor competition at Battersea was postponed on Friday and again on Saturday owing to rain.

The popularity is such that courses are being built all over the country. Not the least of the attractions is a link to fashion (markedly casual), music and a relaxed lifestyle and jargon. A skateboard is still relatively cheap, even if a snowboard is not. Skiing, by contrast, is seen

by the organisers of the festival as an old-fashioned attraction for older people, requiring far too early a start.

Steve Bailey, a 23-year-old from Manchester, graduated from skateboarding to snowboarding and is a candidate for the British Winter Olympics team in Japan in the new year. "I will have to pay part of my passage to get out there and I reckon it will be a number of years before boarding becomes more popular than skiing," he said. "There is no funding as yet and the most I have ever won is £200. I have learned a lot by my mistakes, but the drug is to go on to bigger and bigger jumps all the time."

Don't let a lack of snow hold you back

BY VICTORIA WALKER

YOU DO not have to invest in a board, all the gear and an expensive holiday in the Alps or the Rockies to try snowboarding. Many dry ski slopes offer snowboard lessons and hire out equipment. The British Snowboarding Association (BSA) is the official governing body and holds details on snowboarding facilities throughout Britain.

Prices vary, but tend to be reasonable. Southampton Ski & Snowboard Centre offers a two-day beginners' course for £40. Experienced riders can use the slope for £6.30 an hour and hire boards for an additional £2.

At Tamworth Snowdome, where I had my first lesson, you can learn on man-made snow from £22.50 an hour for adults and £17.50 for children (non-members) or £15.75 an hour for adults and £12.25 for children (members). This includes the hire of the board and boots.

Aviemore has extensive ski and snowboard runs and a snowboard school providing instruction and equipment hire. A two-day beginner's package costs £70 and includes board hire, lift passes and four hours of lessons.

If you would prefer to look before you leap and simply watch an experienced rider in action, the Sprite Demo Tour is roaming British ski slopes with sponsored riders ready to offer advice to novices. Entry is free and the next date is at Warmwell, Dorset, on November 30.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Deception is one of the hardest parts of the game, particularly when defending, as there is always the risk that partner will be more misled than declarer. One of the best times to try to mislead declarer is when you have all of the defensive assets. Today's hand is taken from a new book, *Expert Defence*, by Raymond Brock, a follow-on from his earlier *Step by Step: Planning the Defence*.

Dealer South	East-West game	IMPs
AK 1078 K 1084 Q942	<div> <div> N W E S </div> <div> 10932 10932 10932 10932 </div> </div>	<div> <div> 10932 10932 10932 10932 </div> <div> 10932 10932 10932 10932 </div> </div>

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: Five of spades.

This deal occurred in the final of the 1995 World Junior Championship. The British declarer in the Closed Room played in Four Hearts. He lost two top spades and a spade ruff and then had no reason not to take the heart finesse, and thus went one down.

In the Open Room the New Zealanders reached Three No-Trumps and it looked to the VuGraph audience that the declarer would have to succeed. With the defenders threatening to take four spade tricks as soon as they got the lead he would have no option but to play both his long suits from the top and when the king of hearts dropped he would have ten tricks.

However, Justin Hackett found the excellent opening lead of the five of spades (systemically fourth best). As that was the lowest spade

outstanding, declarer thought that the spades were breaking 4-3. In which case he had a much better play for his game and that is what he tried. He played the queen of hearts, expecting it to hold the trick. Then he would revert to clubs. As long as the defence had only three spades to cash he would make his contract whenever clubs were 4-3 or the queen dropped doubleton or the king of hearts was singleton or doubleton. Unfortunately for him Justin won his king of hearts and cashed four spade tricks.

Expert Defence is available direct from the publishers, B.T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £9.99 (£1 p&hp).

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

True Class
Tournament organisers at the Wrexham grandmaster international were most fortunate in attracting the Russian grandmaster Mark Taimanov to their competition. Considered one of the great powers of Soviet chess in the 1950s, Taimanov has always excelled in quite sight of the board and in the grand scope of his strategic perception.

Taimanov is still active and a fine game from his hands has all the elegance of a chess masterclass.

White: Eric Van den Doel
Black: Mark Taimanov
Owens Corning, Wrexham 1997

Sicilian Defence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	d5	c6	Nc6	Nf6	Bg2	d6	Bd7	Rd8	Bf8	cxd4	Nd7	Nd6	Bd7	Bd7	a4	a4	a4	Bd6	Bd6	Bd6	Rac8	Rac7	Rac7	Rac7	Rac7	Rac7	Rac7	Rac7	Rac7	Rac7

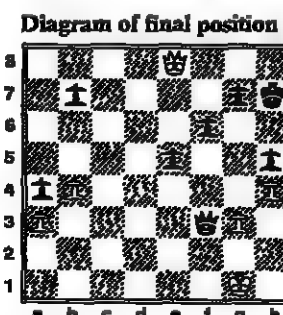


Diagram of final position

Hoogeveen
Another Russian veteran, the 76-year-old former world champion Vassily Smyslov, has also been active, on this occasion in Holland. At the Hoogeveen tournament first place was taken by Sutovski with 4/6, ahead of J. Polgar and Van Wely both 3 and Smyslov 2. Although Smyslov found it difficult to compete with players approximately one third his age, he came close to beating Polgar and his performance maintained his current rating of 2480.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- RIEUSSEC
a. Sweet white wine
b. An 8th-century French cardinal
c. The Latvian Foreign Office
- JOY GEAR
a. Light aircraft controls
b. A locomotive operating device
c. Masseuse's appliances

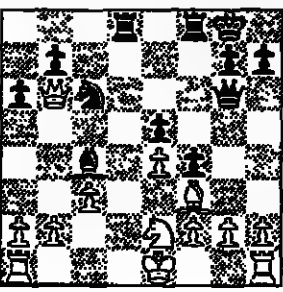
- HENDERSON GYRO
a. A naval gunnery aid
b. A private savings bank
c. An early wingless aircraft
- CACCIA
a. Confetti
b. Fruit syrup
c. A musical form

Answers on page 47

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Miles Speelman, Islington Open 1970. Black has invested a pawn in an attempt to exploit White's slight lack of development. How did he now make the most of his chances?



Solution on page 47

SNOWBOARD CONTACTS

British Snowboarding Association, 1st floor, 4 Trinity Square, Llandudno, North Wales, LL30 2PY 01492 872540; Sprite Demo Tour 0171-336 6666; Southampton Ski & Snowboard Centre 01703 790970; Tamworth Snowdome 01827 67905; Cairngorm Ski Area, Aviemore 01479 561261.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY: Margaret Rescoe won the 1500m (4:25.4), 3000m (9:45.2), 5000m (19:45.2), 10000m (40:15.2), 15000m (59:45.2), 20000m (79:15.2), 25000m (98:45.2), 30000m (118:15.2), 35000m (137:45.2), 40000m (157:15.2), 45000m (176:45.2), 50000m (196:15.2), 55000m (215:45.2), 60000m (235:15.2), 65000m (254:45.2), 70000m (274:15.2), 75000m (293:45.2), 80000m (313:15.2), 85000m (332:45.2), 90000m (352:15.2), 95000m (371:45.2), 100000m (391:15.2), 105000m (410:45.2), 110000m (430:15.2), 115000m (449:45.2), 120000m (469:15.2), 125000m (488:45.2), 130000m (508:15.2), 135000m (527:45.2), 140000m (547:15.2), 145000m (566:45.2), 150000m (586:15.2), 155000m (605:45.2), 160000m (625:15.2), 165000m (644:45.2), 170000m (664:15.2), 175000m (683:45.2), 180000m (703:15.2), 185000m (722:45.2), 190000m (742:15.2), 195000m (761:45.2), 200000m (781:15.2), 205000m (800:45.2), 210000m (820:15.2), 215000m (839:45.2), 220000m (859:15.2), 225000m (878:45.2), 230000m (898:15.2), 235000m (917:45.2), 240000m 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Alex Rippon, one of hundreds of competitors taking part in a bit of cunning running at the British Schools Orienteering Championships yesterday. Photograph: Roy Riley

Orienteering finds its way at school

By IVO TENNANT

IF A treasure hunt with a map and a compass can be called a sport, it is one that will always have an appeal. Nine hundred and fifty schoolchildren, ranging in age from nine to 18, took part in the annual British Schools Orienteering Championships yesterday, testing their wits as much as their speed in an activity that is not known for nothing as cunning running.

Orienteering only took off in Britain in the 1960s and 200 schools now belong to the British Schools Orienteering Association (BSOA) — around 50 of which regard it as a prime sport. Indeed, this most healthy, cheap and fulfilling pursuit can now be studied within physical education at GCSE level.

It is also entirely safe: no one is lost for long, even in a dense thicket. Orienteers will say that they are temporarily unsure of their location

but never lost. Even so, it is a dispiriting experience for young children if they take a wrong turn at the beginning of the course, which is why immense care is taken over the drawing of the maps. Not until a boy or a girl is 13 or 14 is he or she expected to have a reasonable range of orienteering skills.

The main category in the championships, held this year near Winchester and sponsored by Hampshire County Council and Silva Compasses, was won for the third year running by Ulverston Victoria High School, a comprehensive in Cumbria. The PE teacher, Clare Evans, did not take up orienteering until 1988, and only the following year it was run as an out-of-school event. "It was a case of the blind leading the blind," she said. "That and some bullying."

Girls have taken to orienteering more readily than boys at Ulverston. "The children like the social side,"



Evans said. "They like sleeping in dormitories and making a weekend of an event. Ulverston cuts costs through its pupils bringing sleeping bags and spending a night or two in village halls. The teachers and any parents who come with them, too. Each pupil needs to come up with no more than £12 for a two-day trip."

The first course yesterday, for nine and ten-year-olds, lasted for 1.7km.

Sixth formers were required to walk or run over 6.2km. "Hitting or throwing a ball is a generic skill," Ned Paul, the editor of *Compass Sport*, said. "Orienteering looks as if it is not, but at the age of eight, it becomes so. A child never loses the ability to handle a map."

Out of 159 schools, only one was from London. Competitors came from as far afield as Scotland, Northern Ireland and, in particular, from within range of the Lake District, one of the most demanding, as well as scenic, orienteering areas in the country. Cannock Chase, in Staffordshire, is also a particularly strong district.

Matr Crane, 16, who is at Walton High School, Stafford, has already taken part in three events in Scandinavia, the cradle of the sport. He finished in 29min 47sec yesterday. "This was an easy course," he said, "but it was still a challenge. You have to keep your brain in gear at the end

but, as you move up the age scales, you become more reliant on physical activity."

Another school that excels is King's, Macclesfield, in Cheshire. Richard Bradfield, 15, who has gone orienteering since he was 11, was attracted in part by the lure of the scenery. "I would go running if it was not so monotonous," he said. "This is sport for all ages, involves faster running and is a mental and physical pursuit rather than just one or the other."

Frances Stone, the chairman of BSOA, said: "Being part of the national curriculum for junior school children as well as the PE curriculum has given orienteering impetus and growth. A lot of schoolchildren are becoming aware of the sport internationally and hence it is becoming more popular. I see no reason why it should not continue to grow."

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PASSING THE BUCK

INSIDE THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

Henman cashes in on English good looks and playing skills

So, Tim Henman can earn £60,000 for playing just one tennis match in Haverfordwest?

The ATP championships are one of the richest events in tennis, but it is still not bad for a day's work. In his convincing victory over Yevgeni Kafelnikov, Tim was effectively earning £6,000 for every game he played in the two-set match. In contrast, Tim will get just £9,000 for winning the national championships in Telford yesterday.

Tim must make a bit over the whole season?

Sure. The latest winnings will bring his total prize-money this year to around £500,000. But this is only around half the amount earned by Greg Rusedski, who has doubled his career earnings in a season. His astonishing climb up the rankings since the US Open final — when he lost to Pat Rafter, of Australia — in September has been matched by the £700,000 or so he has earned in prize-money during the past few months.

Sounds like easy money to me; how can you sign up?

The top 50 are the only players to earn really serious money. You need to be in the top 250 to make a living wage from the game, while those ranked beyond 1,000 are making less than \$200 a season in prize-money. So, think twice before giving up that day job.

But can't you rake in the cash from off-court activities as well?

A rough rule of thumb is that players can double their on-court prize-money with sponsorship and other corporate link-ups, so Greg should be on course to make around £2 million next year — providing he retains his good form. At the moment, he has a deal with Nike, worth a relatively paltry £65,000, as well as smaller deals with Wilson rackets, Nestlé and Rado. But he has called in Ivan Blumberg, who sorted out the sponsorship side for Jimmy Connors and Stefan Edberg, to take advantage of his new-found earning power. As a top-five player, he will also pick up some extra perks, such as chauffeur-driven limousines and top-notch hotels wherever he appears in tournaments.

So Tim will not only be Britain's No 2 in ranking terms but also in earning power?

Not necessarily. Tim has used his English good looks to put together a series of sponsorship contracts worthy of anyone in the top five. Tim's endorsement portfolio includes a £7.5 million, long-term deal with Adidas and a £1.5 million contract with Slazenger, which also contains a £2 million bonus clause if he breaks into the top ten. He also has deals with Mercedes and Midland Bank to help to keep him in pocket. Greg's famous grin still cannot quite compete in the sponsorship stakes, although another year of outstanding on-court success should finally close the gap.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

House of Lords

Law Report November 17 1997

House of Lords

Whether actions are related

Sarrio SA v Kuwait Investment Authority

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde and Lord Saville

[Reasons November 13]

Whether actions were related for the purpose of article 22 of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters signed at Brussels in 1968 and scheduled to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 should be determined in a broad common sense manner and no distinction was to be drawn between primary or essential and non-essential issues.

The House of Lords gave reasons for allowing, on October 30, an appeal by the defendants, Kuwait Investment Authority, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Brooke) (1997) 1 Lloyd's Rep 113, who had allowed an appeal by the plaintiffs, Sarrio SA, from Mr Justice Mance (1996) 1 Lloyd's Rep 650 and lifted a stay imposed by him on the defendants' application for the plaintiffs' action against them to be struck out.

Article 22 of the Brussels Convention provides: "Where related actions are brought in the courts of different contracting states, any court other than the court first seized may, while the actions are pending at first instance, stay its proceedings."

"A court other than the court first seized may also, on the application of one of the parties, decline jurisdiction if the law of that court permits the consolidation

of related actions and the court first seized has jurisdiction over both actions."

"For the purposes of this article, actions are deemed to be related where they are so closely connected that it is expedient to hear and determine them together to avoid the risk of irreconcilable judgments resulting from separate proceedings."

Mr Nicholas Chambers, QC, Mr Andrew Popplewell, QC and Mr Paul Wright for the defendants; Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC, Mr Charles Hollander and Mr Adrian Briggs for the plaintiffs.

LORD SAVILLE said that in February 1993 the plaintiffs had started proceedings in Spain against the defendants and others claiming that the defendants were liable to them for substantial amounts unpaid under an exercised put option given to them in connection with the sale of their special paper business.

While those proceedings were pending they had also started English proceedings against the defendants claiming damages for negligent misrepresentations allegedly made during the negotiations for the sale of the business.

The defendants had resisted the English proceedings on the ground, inter alia, that they fell within article 22. It was common ground that if the English and Spanish actions were related then the Spanish court was first seized. The debate had concentrated on whether there was a risk of irreconcilable judgments arising from the two sets of proceedings.

The Court of Appeal had considered the approach of the European

Court of Justice, including the opinion of the Advocate General, in *The Maciej Rataj Case C-406/92* (1995) 1 Lloyd's Rep 302; sub nom *The Turky* (1994) ECR I-5439 and concluded that the issues that had to be considered in deciding whether there was a risk of irreconcilable judgments were:

"The issues of fact or law which have to be decided in order that the court can reach its judgment in the particular case. These can be described as 'primary' issues and they are limited to those facts and issues which are necessary to establish a cause of action. The court's decisions on these primary issues represent the process of reasoning upon which its judgment is based. But they do not include... other issues of fact which the court may or may not decide and which are not essential to its conclusion in this way."

His Lordship could not accept that article 22 should be interpreted or applied in that way. He would find nothing in the opinion of the Advocate General or the judgment of the European Court in *The Maciej Rataj* to support the distinction drawn.

The wide words of article 22 militated against the suggested limitation. They were designed to cover a range of circumstances, from cases where the matters before the courts were virtually identical, although not falling within article 21, to cases where, although that was not the position, the connection was close enough to make it expedient for them to be heard and determined together to avoid the risk of irreconcilable judgments.

Those latter words were required if irreconcilable judgments

extended beyond primary or essential issues, so as to exclude actions that, although theoretically capable of giving rise to conflict, were not sufficiently closely connected to make it expedient for them to be heard and determined together.

It had to be borne in mind that article 22 was concerned not with the substantive rights and obligations of the parties but with the ancillary and procedural question as to where in the Community those rights and obligations should be heard and determined.

There was nothing in the Convention that suggested that it was in the interests of the Community that litigation on that question should be made more expensive and time-consuming than necessary.

There should be a broad common sense approach to the question whether actions were related, bearing in mind the objective of article 22, applying the simple test set out and explained in the Advocate General's opinion and the judgment of the European Court in *The Maciej Rataj*. That had been the judge's approach.

He had decided that the plaintiffs' action should be stayed only in view of the stance then adopted by that court. Otherwise he would have declined jurisdiction, since it had seemed clear to him that the Spanish court permitted the consolidation of related actions and that that court had jurisdiction over both actions. The plaintiffs' stance had now changed and his order should be altered to one declining jurisdiction.

LORD GOFF, Lord Lloyd, Lord Hope and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Baker & McKenzie; Linklaters & Paines.

Regina v Emmett and Another

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde

[Speeches November 13]

A defendant was entitled to appeal to the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, against a confiscation order in respect of his proceeds of drug trafficking made under the provisions of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986, now replaced by the Drug Trafficking Act 1994, notwithstanding his acceptance of a prosecution statement under section 3(1) and was entitled to argue that his acceptance had been based on a mistake of law or fact.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the Crown from the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Schiemann, Mr Justice Morland and Mr Justice Collins) who on February 16, 1996, on appeals by Brian and Michael Emmett, had quashed confiscation orders made under section 1 of the 1986 Act by Judge E. G. Neville at Exeter Crown Court on October 25, 1995 following their pleas of guilty to being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on the importation of a controlled drug contrary to section 170(2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979.

Mr Paul Garlick, QC and Mr Nigel Lickley for the Crown; Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC and Mr Anthony Wilcken for the Emmetts.

LORD STEYN said that on November 7, 1993, after months of preparation in England and Spain, a group of men had started to unload a cargo of four metric tonnes of cocaine in the Canary Islands. The Emmetts had been some of the principal organisers. The street value of the cannabis had been some £13,000,000. The outlay for the whole operation had probably been of the order of £3,000,000. The Emmetts had been reduced on appeal to nine years.

Under the 1986 Act, the judge had first to consider whether the accused had benefited from drug trafficking and, if so, to make appropriate confiscation orders. Counsel for the four principal organisers, acting on instructions, had invited him to make agreed orders.

He had said: "It was agreed between counsel [that] the benefits accruing to Bracken, Lemonnier and both Emmetts amounted to £100,000. It was agreed that a confiscation order should be made

that except by specific provision the legislature would not exclude a right of appeal. Neither section 3 nor any other part of the 1986 Act contained any express provisions dealing with appeals to the Court of Appeal. Section 3(1) was a procedural provision designed to facilitate proof that a defendant had benefited from drug trafficking and to establish what the value of his proceeds had been."

In the context, the provision that the court might treat the defendant's acceptance as conclusive of the matters to which it related, the court may, for the purposes of that determination and assessment, treat his acceptance as conclusive of the matters to which it related."

The Crown rightly accepted that with leave an appeal lay against a confiscation order as part of a sentence but submitted that the general right to appeal had been excluded by section 3(1) in respect of a defendant's acceptance of any allegation in a statement tendered by the prosecution and acted on by the court. "Conclusive" meant conclusive for all purposes: see *R v Tredwell* (1994) 99 Cr App R 154.

There was a strong presumption

that the legislature would not exclude a right of appeal. Neither section 3 nor any other part of the 1986 Act contained any express provisions dealing with appeals to the Court of Appeal. Section 3(1) was a procedural provision designed to facilitate proof that a defendant had benefited from drug trafficking and to establish what the value of his proceeds had been."

In the context, the provision that the court might treat the defendant's acceptance as conclusive of the matters to which it related, the court may, for the purposes of that determination and assessment, treat his acceptance as conclusive of the matters to which it related."

The Court of Appeal nowadays had power to consider an argument that an unequivocal and informed plea of guilty had been induced by a fundamental mistake of law or fact. It was difficult to see what rational basis there could be for excluding such a right of appeal.

Under section 3(1) of the 1986 Act, the observations in *Tredwell* about the meaning and effect of section 3(1) were incorrect.

The question on such appeals was not what mistake counsel had made but what mistake the defendant had made. The burden on the defendant might not be easily discharged. The focus would be on a material and causative relevant mistake, and the Court of Appeal might still have to consider whether, absent a material mistake, the confiscation order would nevertheless have been inevitable. If that was the case, the appeal might have to be dismissed on the ground that on a global view no injustice could be shown.

His Lordship was satisfied that it had not been established that the Emmetts had agreed to the confiscation orders as a result of a mistaken view of the law. The orders had been justified on the evidence.

LORD GOFF, Lord Slynn, Lord Nicholls and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitors, Customs and Excise; Ralph Haerms & Co.

Effective date of cause of action against insurance broker

Knapp and Another v Ecclesiastical Insurance Group plc and Another

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Hobbhouse and Lord Justice Buxton

[Judgment October 30]

A cause of action against an insurance broker who negligently advised a client to take out an insurance policy which was voidable and which the insurer avoided when the client tried to claim under it arose when the policy premium was paid and not when the insurer avoided the policy.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the second defendant, David Smith, trading as David Smith Insurance Brokers, against a decision of Sir Peter Webster sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division refusing to strike out an action brought by the plaintiffs, William and Denise Knapp, on the ground that it was time barred.

Mr Robert Walker, QC and Mr Adam Tolley for the second defendant; Mr Robert Jackson, QC and Mr Malcolm Sticher for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that for the purposes of the

first suffered damage as a result of the second defendant's alleged breach of duty so as to make that breach actionable.

The second defendant submitted that that was on April 12, 1990 when the renewal cover attached. The plaintiffs said that it was not until April 4, 1991 when the insurer elected to avoid the policy or alternatively on October 16, 1990 when the fire which led to the claim occurred.

His Lordship considered the authorities including *Pirelli General Cable Works Ltd v Oscar* and *Buckingham Ltd* (1990) 1 All ER 808 and *Islander Trucking Ltd v Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (Marine) Ltd* (1990) 1 All ER 826 and concluded that the cause of action could accrue and the plaintiff had suffered damage once he had acted upon the relevant advice to his detriment and failed to get that to which he was entitled. He was less well off than he would have been if the defendant had not been negligent.

Applying that to the instant case the plaintiffs paid their renewal premium without getting in return a binding contract of indemnity from the insurance company.

They had acted to their detri-

existed from the outset and in the absence of better evidence would have to be evaluated and assessed as a risk and damages awarded accordingly.

On the law as laid down by the House of Lords and the principles on which the Court of Appeal decisions were based, the first instance cases of *Iron Trade Mutual Insurance Co Ltd v Buchanan Ltd* (1990) 1 All ER 808 and *Islander Trucking Ltd v Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (Marine) Ltd* (1990) 1 All ER 826 were correctly decided and on the facts of the instant case it had to be concluded that the second defendant's alleged negligence became actionable at the suit of the plaintiffs on about April 12, 1990 well outside the six-year limitation period.

The loss which the plaintiffs then suffered was the receipt of a purported cover which was not binding, a deficiency of which they were not aware. In return for the payment of the renewal premium, it had been necessary to do so the court could and should have put a monetary value upon that loss at that time.

It would exclude the possibility at that time of remedying the

Regina v Hackney London Borough Council, Ex parte K

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Judgment October 30]

Section 9 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 did not apply retrospectively and the coming into force of that Act was not a new circumstance which a housing authority could regard as a reasonable ground for reconsidering its earlier decision, under the Housing Act 1985, to provide accommodation to a homeless asylum seeker, who was in priority need and not intentionally homeless.

The Court of Appeal so held when granting a renewed application for leave to move for judicial review, and granting judicial review after a full hearing, of an

and Ms Gillian Carrington for the council.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that K had arrived in the United Kingdom in January 1996 and later applied for asylum. In May 1996 he applied to the council as the local housing authority, for accommodation. The council, having come to the conclusion after making the relevant inquiries that it owed him a duty under section 65(2) of Part III of the Housing Act 1985, provided him with accommodation.

The legal position changed as a consequence of the coming into force of section 9 of the 1996 Act which made certain categories of asylum seekers ineligible for benefits. The council took the view that the 1996 Act had removed its obligation to continue to house K and gave him notice to quit.

into effect of section 9 was a fresh circumstance which entitled the council to determine K's right to occupy the accommodation which had been provided and to reconsider the matter taking into account section 9 which made him no longer eligible for the benefits provided by section 65(2) of the 1985 Act.

His Lordship said that the important point in regard to the position under the 1985 Act was that the housing authority, having provided accommodation, was under a public law duty to allow a person in K's position to continue to occupy that accommodation or alternative accommodation unless it was reasonable for it to terminate that right to occupation.

In considering whether it was reasonable to terminate that right, it would be an error of law to take into account the effect of a

Act before the 1996 Act came into force, the council had decided K was eligible and that he was someone to whom it owed a duty. That situation could not be altered by the coming into force of the 1996 Act.

In his Lordship's judgment the council was not entitled to serve the notice to quit. It did not direct itself properly in determining to serve the notice. It took into account an inappropriate consideration, namely the fact that it thought section 9 of the 1996 Act applied to K when it did not. Accordingly, his right to occupation was not terminated lawfully.

In coming to that conclusion his Lordship disagreed with the decision of Mr Justice Carnwath in *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Shelter* and another (1996) 1 All ER 826.

Granada set to shine at top end of forecasts



Charles Allen will be pressed for news of Granada disposals, such as Grosvenor House

GRANADA: The media and leisure group, has a habit of accompanying results with big deals — witness the hostile bid for Forte two years ago. This time, the City wants disposals news, but the message seems to be "Don't hold your breath".

The on-off sale of Grosvenor House in Park Lane, London, seems to have become bogged down at the negotiating table, and a solution to the Savoy conundrum seems as far off as ever. The only hope rests with the £80 million-plus French motorway services business, on which an announcement is rated an "outside chance" by industry observers.

Nevertheless, Gerry Robinson, the chairman, and Charles Allen, chief executive, will not disappoint. Thursday's full-year results are likely to be at the top end of analysts' £630 million to £650 million forecasts — up from £480 million — bolstered by strong results at Forte and a sturdy television advertising market. Television operations should also be boosted by the acquisition of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees in June. Granada is also expected to claim that the £100 million of profit improvement controversially promised during the Forte bid has been surpassed by at least 20 per

cent. The total dividend will rise from 13p to about 14.5p.

VODAFONE: The group is likely to consolidate its position as Britain's biggest mobile phone operator in half-year figures tomorrow. Estimates of pre-tax profits range from £280 million to £285 million, up from £235 million in last year's first half. The group earlier this year bought several service providers and it has wasted little time in restructuring them, for which a £20 million provision will be set aside this time. The strongest growth will be in international operations, with their new subscribers up significantly. The payout is likely to rise, in line with previous years, by 20 per cent, to 2.83p.

BRITISH STEEL: Half-year figures this morning will show the impact of a strong pound. Last year, the group made pre-tax profits of £262 million, but the outcome this time could be anything between £70 million and £120 million.

Sterling's strength will also have accelerated the redundancy programme. Brokers say that up to a quarter of the 40,000 workforce may be involved in the restructuring.

Currency drove profits down from a record £1.1 bil-

COMPANIES

lion to £451 million last year. NatWest Markets is looking for 585 million at half way. BZW forecasts £100 million.

Recent speculation has suggested a link-up soon with Preussag Stahl, the German steelmaker, and investment of a further £500 million in a new plant in Indonesia.

In spite of the profits collapse, the group has managed to peg its dividend at 10p. An unchanged interim 3p is forecast.

EMAP: With the succession now settled, the City can concentrate on Emap's interim figures, out today. These are expected to be encouraging, with NatWest Markets, predicting a jump in pre-tax profits to £62.8 million, from £50.6 million. This is in spite of the poorly economy in France — where Emap is the second-largest magazine publisher and the intended chief executive, Kevin Hand, runs things. Consumer publishing is also exciting, with *FM*, the men's monthly, leaving the likes of *GQ* and *Lodged* in its wake. The outgoing chief executive, Robin Miller, will be questioned about Emap's stance on IPC, the consumer publisher

put up for sale by Reed Elsevier for £800 million. Emap is unlikely to say much more than it already has, and the feeling is that others may be able to offer more for IPC.

SAFeway: Brokers expect disappointing half-year results on Wednesday.

Mike Dennis, of Société Générale Strauss-Turnbull, says that it is almost as if the group has primed the City to expect a dull set of figures. He is looking for pre-tax profits of £235 million, against £230 million.

Sales growth will have been flat and the chances are that the group may have continued to lose market share to J Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda.

Brokers will no doubt want an indication of how Safeway intends to get sales lines moving if a better performance is expected for the second half. However, against last year's dull post-Christmas backdrop, improvement should not be too hard. After the breakdown of merger talks with Asda, Safeway will no doubt be required to outline its strategy. The payout should grow by 5 per cent, to 4.6p.

STOREHOUSE: The annual meeting earlier this year was reasonably encouraging on sales growth, but this will have altered after dull trading conditions in August and September. Nick Bubb, of SocGen, says that October was better, but that it is unlikely to have let the group make up all the lost ground. He forecasts £39 million interim pre-tax profits on Thursday, midway in a market range of £38 million to £40 million. Last year, the group made £37.5 million. Headline sales growth should,

at first sight, appear impressive, but, after a contribution from the Children's World acquisition is stripped out, the overall performance will leave much to be desired.

Bhs and Mothercare continue to struggle. Mr Bubb says that the market positioning of Bhs continues to cause concern, and Mothercare is losing its share of a flat market.

The interim dividend should grow from 3.3p to 3.5p.

UNIGATE: A solid performance is expected in results today. The all-important dairy division will have seen a recovery in margins on last year, and the expanded pig-meat processing activities should make a useful contribution.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, forecasts pre-tax profits of about £67 million, up from £60.6 million. The Wincanton transport division is back on track, with new contracts. Steadier pricing in retailing and manufacturing should limit damage to the profit and loss account.

The payout should rise 6 per cent, to 7.4p.

NORTHERN FOODS: Henderson Crosthwaite expects pre-tax profits tomorrow up from £57.8 million to £68 million. The market range is between £64 million and £69 million. Henderson says the dairy side should be £5 million up, at £27 million, with lower milk costs boosting doorstep margins. Paribas says the real benefit of the penny put on a pint earlier this year is unlikely to be felt till the second half. The payout will rise almost 6 per cent, to 3.8p.

MICHAEL CLARK

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Two clues awaited on interest rates

TWO key British statistical releases will this week give further clues on prospects for interest rates in the months ahead. Last week's Bank of England *Inflation Report* left the question of whether rates have now peaked ambiguous but ominously said that the Monetary Policy Committee was not "in a pause" in the process of monetary tightening.

With continuing strong growth in consumer demand and money supply cited as two of the main reasons behind the recent rise in base rates, this week's figures for retail sales and money supply are key. October's retail sales figures are published on Wednesday. According to the consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International, sales are expected to have risen 1.8 per cent, giving year-on-year growth of 5.1 per cent, compared with a drop in sales volumes in September of 1.9 per cent and a year-on-year rate of 3.4 per cent.

October figures for M4 money supply are published on Thursday and are expected to show growth in broad money of 0.5 per cent. This would mean the annual rate of growth dipping somewhat to 11.2 per cent from 11.8 per cent in September but this rate is still far too high for comfort within the MPC. The Bank said last week that "money growth must slow if the inflation target is to be met".

Also published in Britain this week are October figures for the public sector borrowing requirement as well as the latest monthly trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry. The latter will be keenly watched for signs of any impact of sterling's appreciation on export volumes and orders.

JANET BUSH

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: British Steel, Emap, First Bus, Lyons Irish Holdings, 800 Group, TBI, Unigate, Whitcroft, Workspace Group, Finale, Grantchester Holdings, Economic statistics: US October industrial production.

TOMORROW

Interims: Adam & Harvey, Chamberlain & Hill, James Cropper, De La Rue, Enterprise Inns, Gail Thomson Environmental, Great Portland Estates, Marshalls, Merchant Retail Group, Northern Foods, Rabus Group, Vodafone Group, Vesper Thymecroft, Finale: BOC, Glasgow Income Trust, Economic statistics: UK October PSBR, Bank of England to give details of November 26 gift auction.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Black Arrow Group, Courtauld, Dewar International, European Colour, European Motor Holdings, F&D, Ful Bank, Hydrex Land Securities, Ionica, Meyer International, Robert Westman, Safeway, Southnews, Finale: Century Inns, Ferraris Group, Economic statistics: UK October retail sales, CBI Council press conference, US October housing starts.

THURSDAY

Interims: Baring Stratton Investment, (3), Bradford Property Trust, Chorley Group, City of London PR Group, Glenmore, Hill Hing Lambert Fenchurch Group, EDAF Man, Powell Duffryn, PowerGen, Stanhouse, Shires Income, Vocelle Group, York Waterworks, Finale: Fibernet Group, Granada, Tomkinson, Tweslerton United Collieries, Economic statistics: UK October car production, UK Q3 provisional GDP, Building Societies Association October lending, CBI November industrial trends survey.

FRIDAY

Interims: Osborne & Little, Wei Kwong Shipping.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy British Steel, Mayflower, Signet, Workspace; Sell Manchester United. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Capital Radio, Five Oaks Investment, Sell Loftus Road, DCC; Hold Videologic. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Abacus Recruitment, Gibbon Group; Sell Lloyds TSB, The Observer; Buy Safeway; Sell JKC. The Express on Sunday: Buy Ryland, BPP Holdings; Hold BT.



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TWA

Zambian industry boost from

CORPORATE PROFILE: Rio Tinto

FACTS

Turnover (1996): \$8.4 billion
Pre-tax profit: \$1.7 billion
Employees: 51,000
Overview: The world's biggest mining group. Operations span aluminium, iron ore, copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc, and uranium. Anglo-Australian structure reflects combination of RTZ and CRA, which merged in December 1995 and changed name to Rio Tinto in June 1997. Shares hit hard by Asian currency turmoil and plunging copper price. Planning horizons span 20 years or more. Quotes in US dollars.

THE BOARD

Robert (Bob) Wilson, formerly chief executive of RTZ-CRA, and executive chairman of the combined group since January 1997, succeeded Sir Derek Birkin. An economist by training, Wilson joined RTZ in 1970 at the age of 26, and has held a wide variety of positions within the company. Aged 54, Wilson's main cohorts include Leon Davis, chief executive, representing the CRA camp, and Chris Bull, group finance director. Davis joined CRA from school in 1958 as a metallurgical cadet and has worked in Papua New Guinea, and elsewhere in Asia.

Non-executive directors: Raymond Seltz, the former American Ambassador to the United Kingdom, who is also on the board of British Airways.

Richard Glendon, American-born chairman of BG and Centrica, who holds non-executive positions with Grand Metropolitan and Lucas Industries.

The Australian contingent includes John Uhrig, former chairman of CRA, and chairman of Westpac, and Gary Pemberton, another well-connected businessman, who is chairman of Qantas, and heres known Seltz via the BA connection.

Sir Martin Jacobson, chairman of the audit committee, is former chairman of BZW, and chairman of the British Council and Prudential Corporation. He also sits on the board of Marks & Spencer.

Newcomers include Sir Richard Sykes, chairman and chief executive of Glaxo Wellcome, and Lord Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National and Blue Circle Industries. They were appointed in August, in part replacing Lord Salmon of Highbury, latterly chairman of BP, who relinquished his directorships on his appointment as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe.

For a company that earns its crust blasting great chunks out of the earth, Rio Tinto has endured an appropriately seismic year. Recent months have brought changes of name, industrial disputes, and a sudden fall in the share price.

The board, led by Bob Wilson and Leon Davis, has persevered with reorganising a group that is still fundamentally two companies, one with a power base in St James's Square, London; the other in Melbourne.

To many, the world's biggest mining group will always be RTZ, but Rio Tinto is the more appropriate name. It combines the common features of two mining companies that have been linked for years — The Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation and Conzinc Riodinto of Australia.

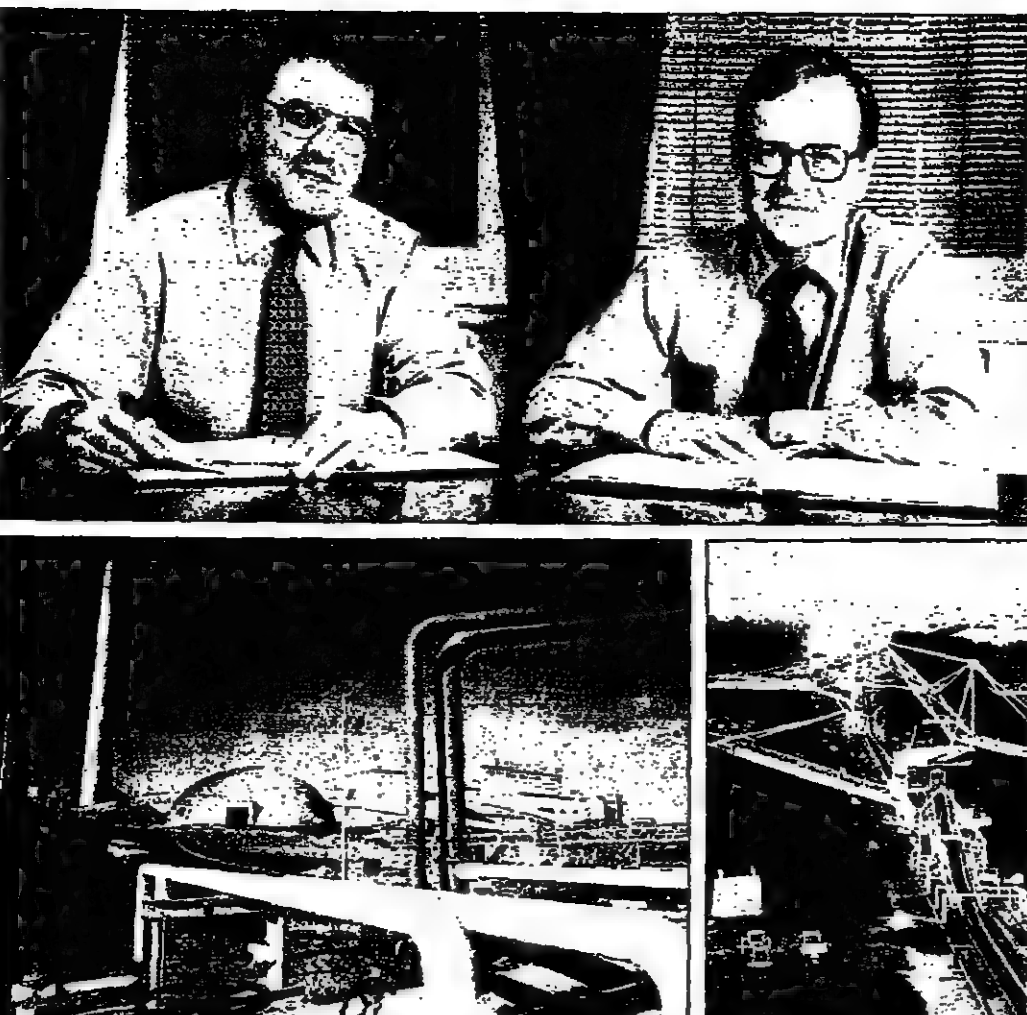
If 1996 consolidated the merger of RTZ-CRA, then 1997 was the year in which to polish this rough outfit into an altogether more alluring gem.

To enthusiasts, Rio Tinto conjures up a Boy's Own world, filled with mile-long trains and vast open-pit mines — among the biggest man-made workings anywhere. At Grasberg in Irian Jaya in Indonesia, engineers are peeling back the top of a 14,000 ft mountain, contending with hostile atmospheric conditions, including cloud and torrential rain. Tailings laced with copper, gold and silver are channelled to a mill at 9,000 ft and hence by pipeline to the coast ready to be shipped out.

At Diavik in Canada's North-West Territories, engineers are probing one of the world's most exciting new diamond discoveries, secreted beneath a frozen lake. In between are huge open-pit workings in America, Chile and Australia and controversial sand-dune excavations near Lake St Lucia in South Africa.

The environmental protesters who stand outside Rio Tinto's London head office chanting "Rio Tinto stinks" and other slogans clearly have a less romantic slant on things. To them, the exploitation of exhaustible natural resources is indefensible, whatever the steps taken to paper over the cracks. Questions are raised about the impact on local communities, both financially, and in terms of their health and wellbeing.

It is hardly surprising that Rio Tinto devotes considerable resources to the ethical/environmental question. The company is soon to publish a code of business practice, two years in the making, which spells out company policy on



Mine giant clockwise, Leon Davis, chief executive, left, and Bob Wilson, chairman, who are working to integrate Rio Tinto operations worldwide. Iron ore being taken to the port of Dampier; stackers and shiploaders at the port of Tanjung Bara; and the copper smelter at Bingham Canyon

community relations, corporate governance and other sensitive topics.

The RTZ Corporation plc and CRA Ltd came together in December 1995 in a dual-listed companies structure, trading in London and Sydney. After 18 months of consolidation, they adopted a common name, while remaining separate legal entities with separate share listings.

Management structure was reorganised, in March, into six product groups, aimed at reducing bureaucracy and shortening lines of communication. Three are based in Australia — Comalco (aluminium) in Brisbane; energy in Melbourne (the long-standing CRA base); and iron ore in Perth.

Other operations, including copper and gold, are driven from London, together with technology and exploration. Key managers have been uprooted and transplanted to new posts around the world. The leaner structure is already generating cost savings of up

to \$200 million a year — five times the original forecasts.

Rio Tinto inclines to the long term for everything, from share price performance to future returns. Its core strategy is to concentrate on the development of large, long-life mines capable of delivering superior returns to shareholders over many years.

The company has endured a

difficult financial run recently, pegging its interim dividend, then seeing its shares fall off a cliff on the back of the financial crisis in South-East Asia. The shares have fallen by more than a quarter since June, when they peaked at 1,109p. They closed at 755p on Friday.

It has yet to be seen whether the Asian turmoil will generate

a tidal wave, triggering recession in South Korea, Japan, China, and, ultimately, the West, or a ripple, intensifying local economic pressures.

America, Rio Tinto's most important market, has enjoyed extraordinarily high growth for years, and this is expected to continue, even if at a lesser rate. Economic recovery is expected to accelerate in Western Europe, the next most important bloc, while significant growth is expected in China, fuelled by huge infrastructure projects.

North America and Australia are the most important contributors to earnings, followed by South America, Africa and Indonesia. Technical and operational problems seen in 1996 have been largely ironed out, although Australian coal remains problematic. Rio Tinto is locked in an old-fashioned battle with the unions over operations in the Hunter Valley, north of Sydney, and is in for a long fight. Low productivity and high

costs are among the issues to be addressed.

Worldwide interests include Kennecott in Utah, which encompasses the Bingham Canyon mine, and is America's third largest copper producer. In Canada, iron and titanium provides pigment feedstock used in paints, coatings, paper and plastics.

Hammersley Iron in north-western Australia provides more than a third of all iron ore shipped from Australia to Japan. The ore is hauled 338 kilometres to Dampier on the coast in 226-carriage trains, loaded — and operated — by one person.

The Australian North West is also home to the Argyle diamond mine, source of pink diamonds sold independently since last year, when Argyle withdrew from the London-based Central Selling Organisation.

In 1995, Rio Tinto paid \$500 million for a 12 per cent stake in Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, the American

group that operates Grasberg. It is expected to develop into the world's biggest copper mine, overtaking Escondido in Chile, in which Rio Tinto has a 30 per cent interest.

Operations in Papua New Guinea include Lihir Gold and Bougainville Copper — the latter abandoned in 1989 in the face of hit-and-run attacks by warring locals.

South African interests include the Palabora copper mine (39 per cent owned) and Richards Bay Minerals (50 per cent owned with Billiton), which mines heavy mineral sands on the coast of KwaZulu/Natal.

Rio Tinto has a range of publications describing its role as a "good corporate citizen". It has carried out a series of environmental audits, but its stated corporate values, according to Integrity Works, our independent analysts, are limited to mutual respect, active partnership and long-term commitment. It further believes in transparency and trust.

Ethical expression owes much to a basic stakeholder approach, including a heavy emphasis on community relations. This makes the company appear somewhat disjointed, compared with best practice, but a reference to human rights in the new code of business practice will put it in the vanguard of corporate ethics statements.

The company comes off badly in the "fat cat" league compiled by Crisp Consulting, which calculates that Mr Wilson was 42 per cent overpaid in 1996, with emoluments of £1.27 million. The Crisp model suggests that £730,336 would have been more in keeping with the company's generally poor performance over the period.

The average pay of the (then) nine non-executive directors was also deemed excessive: amounting to 56 per cent more than the average pay of the non-executive directors for all FTSE 100 companies.

JON ASHWORTH

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"The general strategy has not really changed in the last seven years: to secure long-term quality assets across a spread of commodities in a broad spread of countries. Metal markets worldwide are so finely balanced that if you get only a small shift in outlook, as in the Asian currency crisis, it does lead to pressure for lower prices." — *Clyde Lewis, HSBC James Capel*

"Investors have probably overreacted to this Asian situation. The perception going forward is, let's wait for the dust to settle and look at the whole thing again in the new year." — *Peter Davey, Société Générale*

"Increasingly profit growth is being driven by the group's investment programme, with significant additional volumes over the next two to three years as new projects come on-stream." — *Andrew Hallis, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson*

Gooch & Housego eyes AIM

GOOCH & HOUSEGO, a maker of precision optical components, is coming to the Alternative Investment Market, in a flotation that will make a millionaire of its 80-year-old chairman (Jon Ashworth writes).

Archie Gooch, who founded the company with Leslie Housego in a loft in 1916, will hold shares worth £2.8 million. Price Waterhouse Corporate Finance is adviser to the deal, which will raise £6 million for Gooch & Housego, and value the company at about £17 million. Funds will in part finance a new factory in Orlando, Florida.

Gooch & Housego made a pre-tax profit of £14.3 million (£10.6 million) in the year to September 30, on sales of £6.71 million (£5.95 million).

07000

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THE PERSONAL NUMBER

Zambian copper industry set for boost from CDC

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN LUSAKA

THE Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), the UK's development finance institution, is taking a significant stake in the Zambian copper industry, providing a lift to Zambia's struggling copper industry.

The CDC, at the centre of confusion over plans for its privatisation, is part of a consortium of mining companies including Anglo American, Phelps Dodge of America, the deal, involving the Nkana and Nchanga mines, is the biggest in Zambia's slow-moving privatisation programme. The mines account for about half of Zambia's copper output.

Analysts suggest that the sale price agreed with Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) is in the region of \$250 million (£156 million) cash, with an initial commitment to spend \$300 million to \$400 million with a view to doubling production.

Industry sources said last month that the Zambian Government wanted \$300 million for the two mines, but the consortium had offered \$220

million with an additional commitment to spend \$1 billion in Zambia — \$750 million on capital expenditure and \$250 million on debt assumption and social development.

Zambia's copper industry has been in steady decline since 1969, when it ranked as the world's fourth-biggest producer. The sale, coupled with long-term mine development projects and exploration, could revive the industry, which earns 90 per cent of the country's foreign exchange.

ZCCM is saddled with debts in the region of \$800 million, including at least \$200 million in short-term liabilities to suppliers. Concern has also been expressed about the implications of government interference in the privatisation process and corrupt practices surrounding some of the deals.

New investors face the threat of industrial action at mines. Zambia faces instability after last month's attempted coup, in which a group of drunken soldiers briefly tried to take over the country before they were arrested and detained.

AMP vote on flotation this week

BY MARIANNE CURPHY INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO MILLION members of Australia Mutual Provident (AMP) will vote this week on the life insurer's plans to demutualise and float on the Australian and New Zealand stock markets.

Thousands of UK members of AMP have voted by post. If the plans are approved, up to 200,000 qualifying customers resident in the UK will receive an estimated windfall of £2,500 on flotation next May.

Australian members are being asked to vote on proposals to turn AMP into one of the ten largest listed companies in Australia at a meeting at a concert hall in Darling Harbour, Sydney, on Thursday.

Only UK residents who hold qualifying policies with AMP UK and London Life, which merged with AMP in 1989, will benefit from windfall shares. Members of Pearl, which is owned by AMP, will not receive shares because Pearl is a proprietary company.

At a similar general meeting before AMP's merger with London Life in 1989, so many turned up to vote at the Barbican in London that the meeting had to be reconvened in the Café Royal.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

RUEUSSEC

(a) Chateau Rueussec produces one of the great sweet Sauternes. Its grapes are mainly Semillon, some Sauvignon Blanc and a trace of Muscadelle. The character of the wine is formed by the mould Botrytis Cinerea. The chateau sits on a hill, one mile from Yquem. It has been owned by the Rothschild family since 1864.

JOY GEAR

(b) The valve gear on a locomotive controls the admission and exhaust of steam to and from the cylinders. One model, the "Joy" gear, is of the radial type and operates with no eccentrics. The valve rod is directly worked through a coupling rod or link from the connecting rod.

HENDERSON CYRO

(c) A gunnery device. By means of a gyroscope and an internal prism it stabilises the line of sight and enables the gun director to keep on target despite the rolling of the ship. He is thus able to fire as soon as the "gun ready" lamp lights.

CACCIA

(d) An early (14th-century) Italian musical and poetic form. It consists of a two-part canon with the second part (ie, parts of a round) "chasing" the first. Caccia means a chase or hunt in Italian. The verse form is a poem of short lines with a refrain but no rhyme. It may have evolved from the madrigal. The name suggests that at some stage the subjects of the caccia were connected with hunting.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... N4d1 2.Qxg6 Nc2 3.Kf1 Nc4 and Black wins material due to the threat of ... Rd1 mate.

REWARDING TIMES

PLAY £200,000 PORTFOLIO

£1,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PRICES, PAGE 45

Start playing new Portfolio, an exciting opportunity to play the stock market without getting your fingers burnt. You can win £1,000 a day six days a week in *The Times*, and you can play every Sunday in *The Sunday Times* to win £2,000. Better still, there is a £5,000 weekly prize, if you play Portfolio in both papers, seven days a week. Playing Portfolio is easy and fun. Every week companies' share prices go up and down in the real world of the Stock Exchange. So you can experience the excitement of the stock market swings, but without the risks.

HOW TO PLAY

- On each individual Portfolio gamecard there are eight numbers printed in a grid.
- These numbers represent eight out of 44 companies listed on the Portfolio panel (see Equity Prices, page 45).
- The eight are your "Portfolio of Shares".
- The 44 companies are taken from the hundreds whose shares are listed on *The Times* Equity Prices page every day.
- Simply check the share price movement (+ or -) of your eight Portfolio shares.
- When you have checked all eight share price movements and entered them on to the Portfolio panel on page 45 add them up to obtain your plus or minus total.
- When adding up your total, ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... equals no change).

If your overall total exactly matches the points required in the Daily Portfolio Dividend, printed on the Portfolio panel on page 45, you win or share the £1,000 daily prize.

WEEKLY ACCUMULATOR GAME

To play the weekly accumulator game simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in *The Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £5,000.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

Claims for *The Times* daily Portfolio dividend must be made to the Portfolio claims line on 0171-481 3355 between 9.30am and 3pm today. No claims can be accepted outside these hours and you must claim your prize the day you win. You must have your card with you when you claim. Other persons can claim on your behalf provided they have your card.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours. In the event of more than one valid claim for any prize, that prize will be divided equally among the winners.

*You can get a Portfolio card by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. Cards are also available at selected newsagents.

PORTFOLIO RULES

The Times and *The Sunday Times* Portfolio is free. Purchase of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* is not a condition of taking part. *The Times* Portfolio list comprises of a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in *The Times* Equity Prices page. *The Sunday Times* Portfolio list comprises of a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted as the Top 200 companies in *The Sunday Times* Stock Exchange price page. Readers' calculations should be based on whole numbers only. Where a fraction appears the figure should be rounded down to make a whole number e.g. 4½ equals 4. The companies comprising the list will change from day to day. This list (which is numbered 1-44) is divided into four randomly distributed groups of 11 shares. Every Portfolio card contains two numbers from each group and each card contains a unique set of numbers. *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* "dividend" will be the figure in pence which represents the optimum movement in prices (ie, the largest increase or

lowest loss) of a combination of eight (two from each randomly distributed group within the 44 shares) of the 44 shares which on any one day comprises *The Times* or *The Sunday Times* Portfolio list. 4 The daily dividend will be announced each day and the weekly dividend will be announced each Sunday in *The Sunday Times*. 5 *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* Portfolio list and details of the daily or weekly dividend will also be available for inspection at the offices of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Cards are freely available at *Times Newspapers* Ltd offices or you can call the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. 6 If the overall prize movement of more than one combination of shares equals the dividend the prize will be equally divided among the claimants holding those combinations of shares. If the prize is unclaimed it will be added to the following day's prize for the day game or the next week's prize for the accumulator. There is a limited prize pool and in the event of there being more winners than prizes available in the prize pool, *Times Newspapers* Ltd reserve the right to

distribute the available prize by a random draw. 7 All claims are subject to scrutiny before payment. Any Portfolio card that is delayed, tampered with or incorrectly printed in any way will be declared void. 8 Employees of *Times Newspapers* Ltd and its subsidiaries and of *Europoint Group* Limited (publishers and distributors of the card) or members of their immediate families are not allowed to play Portfolio. 9 All participants will be subject to these rules. All instructions on How to Play and How to Claim whether published in *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* or on Portfolio cards will be deemed to be part of these rules. The Editor reserves the right to amend the Rules. Any amendments will be published in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. 10 In any dispute the Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 11 If for any reason *The Times* or *The Sunday Times* pages are not published in the normal way Portfolio will be suspended for the day. 12 Persons under the age of 18 are ineligible to play. 13 Winners MUST agree to publication of their names and/or photograph in *The Times* and/or *The Sunday Times*.

Labour repaying debt, — whatever next?

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High on the brow and tall in the saddle

It was the sixth weekend before Christmas. You could tell that because all sorts of new series were conveniently starting six-part runs and because it couldn't quite decide what sort of weekend to be. Was it still the class and quality of autumn, or the cheap, cheerful and commercial that traditionally signals the onset of winter? Julian Clary, Lily Savage and a new series of *The Fast Show* thought they knew.

But they had reckoned without Sir Isaiah Berlin, Julius Caesar and the Battle of Hastings. For once in my reviewing life I was going highbrow, safe in the knowledge that the worst that could happen was to fall asleep halfway through a Michael Ignatieff introduction and suddenly discover it was Monday.

The two-part tribute to Berlin, heavily stamped "not to be shown in his lifetime", arrived late in the schedules — late not in terms

of last-minute but also, well, late. Still sober? That was the great unasked question as *The Making of a Hedgehog* (BBC2) got under way at hours of Friday and Saturday night normally reserved for frivolity rather than philosophy. You needed to be.

Both films were the product of one long interview but they were divided by more than the Second World War. Friday night, from the moment he over-elaborately introduced his subject as "the last great Jewish intellectual of the 20th century", was the torturing of Ignatieff. This he discovered early: "You then went to St Paul's School?" was men wide: "Well, not forget, I had very little imagination." I realised I was going to enjoy this.

So it proved, but goodness it was hard work. One of the reasons for this became more apparent on Saturday, when Ignatieff, having

mastered the art of nodding and shaking his head at the same time, had a much better time of it. As they discussed liberalism, pluralism and other -isms I had never heard of, excerpts from Berlin's broadcasts in the 1950s and 1960s showed how that distinctive voice had changed. The fluency was still there but the precision had faded with age, making way for something deeper, darker and occasionally difficult to understand.

But if one or two punchlines were lost (Ignatieff nodded and smiled encouragingly, knowing the moment had passed) and one or two I was not clever enough to understand, there were enough that made it through to make this an enjoyable, if rather tiring, 90 minutes. I feel somewhat embarrassed about warning quite so enthusiastically to the story about Churchill confusing Irving Berlin with Isaiah (so much for my

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

scholarly pretensions) but less so about logical positivism which Berlin said he didn't believe in at all but found convenient because it swept away a lot of tedious metaphysics and all those second-rate philosophers who couldn't do it. Ignatieff smiled. I emphasised with the second-rate.

My colleague Melvyn Bragg is fond of a scholarly chat. His problem on last night's South

Bank Show was getting one. The subject was Iain Banks (or Iain M. Banks in science-fiction mode), a writer from a generation reluctant to take anything too seriously, least of all themselves.

For the first ten or 15 minutes, Tony Knox's film was dominated by two images. The first was "the vast and ruddy frame" of the Forth Railway Bridge, that Banks both lives by and writes about. The second was of Bragg, desperately trying to get his subject to make himself serious. For a while it looked as though the best he would achieve was Banks's claim that his main aim in writing science fiction was "to reclaim the moral high ground of space-opera for the Left". Bragg looked like a man who didn't altogether approve of science fiction.

Then came the breakthrough — the word "dystopia" (I had to look it up). Bragg looked realigned. Suddenly Banks was away, his

intellect finally unleashed. "There is a religion around now that makes sense, it's called science," Bragg's eyes lit up. Did somebody say science? After that, the pair chatted cleverly ever after, while Peter Capaldi, one of the stars of the marvellous television adaptation of *The Crow Road*, read extracts that intrigued more than they immediately tempted.

A tricky opening ten minutes is almost a defining element of highbrow television. It certainly took that long to get used to Brian Cox's florid narration to I. Banks (BBC2, Saturday). But then it became clear why Cox was giving quite so much. The narration was everything to Phil Grabsky's gripping retelling of the story of Julius Caesar. Apart from some stone reliefs, the odd goblet of Plutarch and a handful of erudite academics, he had nothing else. That this

austere combination produced such watchable television was as improbable as it was impressive. No problems with the opening ten minutes to War Walks (BBC2, Friday) which suggested more populist ambitions, a fact quickly confirmed by the sight of Professor Richard Holmes, the military historian, riding a medieval warhorse. Name of Thatch, apparently.

While Caesar came, saw but couldn't be bothered to conquer Britain, this was the story of how a Norman duke did so, 1,000 years and assorted Dark Ages later. Holmes is an accomplished storyteller, but what he really excels at is convincing you that the outcome of the Battle of Hastings is in doubt, when you've known from the age of eight that it isn't. Eventually, however, not even he could prevent nice King Harold getting one in the eye. The rest, as they say, is tapestry.

BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (94814)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (89272)
9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7) (5648814)
9.25 Style Challenge (5668949)
9.50 Killy (7) (5328851)
10.30 Change That from Tattler Park Country Estate in Cheshire (4834683)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (7) (7843253)
11.35 Real Rooms (289794)
12.00 News (7) and weather (8233185)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (5617663)
12.35 Give Us A Cue (252982)
1.00 One O'Clock News (7) and weather (8789)
1.30 Regional News (84373494)
1.40 The Weather Show (5831659)
1.45 Neighbours (7) (44386727)
2.55 Quinny (7) (2946272)
2.55 Women's Best of Blinky Blank (783759)
3.30 Playdays (8104017) 3.55 Enchanted Lands (123104) 4.00 Road to Nowhere (563814) 4.15 Noah's Island (7818365) 4.40 Goosebumps (8218901) 5.00 Newsworld (7) (8454340) 5.15 Blue Peter — An End Byron Special (7) (8303340)
5.35 Neighbours (7) (378038)
6.00 One O'Clock News (7) and weather (291)
6.30 Regional News (543)
7.00 This Is Your Life Michael Aspel invites another personality to take a trip down memory lane (7) (7291)
7.30 Here and Now: Top Range Chris Choi investigates the national shortage of Teletubbies toys which has enraged customers up and down the country and driven parents to desperate lengths (7) (727)
8.00 EastEnders Ian's life is turned upside down (7) (3811)
8.30 Spic: Beth Coates arranges for Ashley to meet an attractive divorcee (2745)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (7) and weather (1088)
9.30 Hotel The Adelphi's house manager, Katy, is left in the lurch by the departure of a receptionist (7) (58393)
10.00 Panorama: The People's Monarchy? What has the Palace learnt from the public reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales? (7) (58746)
10.40 On Side John Inverdale presents the sports magazine, Tonight, he talks Formula One racing with Damon Hill and new learn boss Eddie Jordan, rugby with outspoken Aussie David Campese and tennis with Greg Rusedski (7) (458291)
11.30 Film '97 with Barry Norman Brad Pitt's latest outing, Seven Years in Tibet, about an Austrian mountaineer who strikes up a relationship with the Dalai Lama, plus reviews of <i>Keep the Aspidochelone</i> , <i>Requiem for a Dream</i> and <i>La Strada</i> (7) (52406)
12.00 Last Evidence (1979) Suspense thriller, with Roy Scheider as a CIA operative whose wife is killed in an ambush, leading him to believe that someone wants him dead. Directed by Jonathan Demme (7) (496608) Followed by Weather
1.40 BBC News 24 (5501321)

BBC2
6.00am Education: History — What is its Future? (48123) 6.30 An English Education (7) (50272)
7.00 See Hear: Breakfast News (7) and weather (8233185)
7.15 Teleshopping (4917524) 7.40 Sports: Adventures (2217615) 8.05 Blue Peter (2871562) 8.30 Muzo's Grams (2801369) 8.45 Harry and the Hendersons (5957543) 9.10 Spanish Globo (1820494) 9.15 Clementine (2149224) 9.30 Whodunnit Pictures (466017) 9.45 Storyline (445272)
10.00 Teleshopping (51524) 10.30 Sports and Pictures (878271) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (371778) 11.00 Look and Read (1538290) 11.20 Zig Zag (3357982) 11.40 Landmarks (908271) 12.00 Modern Studies (8723591) 12.20pm Job Bank (823543)
12.30 Working Lunch (83038) 1.00 The Greedydusans (78954274) 1.05 Hairy Jerry (1331085) 1.10 The Art and Antiques Hour (504456) 2.10 Going, Going, Home (82474307) 2.40 News (7) (3518458) 2.45 Clash of the Titans: Seb Cox and Steve Overt (7) (707183) 3.25 News (7) (3511582) 3.30 The Village (949)
4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (455) 4.30 Through the Keyhole (7) (723388) 4.55 Esther (589543) 5.30 Today's the Day (820)
6.00 The Simpsons (7) (449524)
6.20 Basketball: Galactica (7) (727265)
7.10 The Car's the Star: The Chevrolet Corvette (7) (728307)
7.30 Making Masterpieces Neil MacGregor traces the origins of impressionism (7) (369)
8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor: The causes and treatments for impotence, the risks and benefits of cervical cancer screening and a new hearing test for babies (7) (723)
8.30 The Tiger: A new series about the diverse wildlife of India's Kanha region (7) (182104)
9.20 Trade Secrets: Professional bakers reveal tricks of their trade (7) (205433)
9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks (7) (723272)
10.00 I'm Alan Partridge Alan manages to lose the entire farming population of Norfolk (7) (57128)
10.30 Newsnight (7) (823678) 11.15 Oldie TV (583038) 11.55 Weather (48017) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (80470)
12.30am Learning Zone: The Making of Peter Snow (974018) 12.45 Architecture in Britain (804215) 1.10 The Victorian Home (883739) 1.35 Victorian Dressing: Chatsworth (828780) 2.00 Modern Languages (53051) 4.00 Greek Language and People 1-2/French Experience (50215) 5.00 Business and Training (18437)

HTV
6.00am GMTV (4018104)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (7) (5541389)
9.55 Regional News (7) (6088088)
10.00 The Times, the Place (88878)
10.30 This Morning (7) (48337543)
12.20 pm Regional News (236368)
12.30 News (7) and weather (288307)
12.55 High Road (2263098) 1.25 Home and Away (7) (2331861)
1.50 A Summer Story (1988) with Imogen Stubbs and James Wilby, Romantic drama directed by Piers Haggard (8536123)
3.20 News (7) (8916017)
3.25 Regional News (7) (8915388)
3.30 Tots TV (3830038) 3.40 The Slow North (125388) 3.50 Wolves, Wolves and Giants (801524) 4.05 Sooty and Co (7) (3015588) 4.35 Men in Black (7) (3015758) 4.50 How 2 (7) (8207253)
5.10 WALEs: The House (7) (8867291)
5.10 We Are Seven (8667291)
5.40 News (7) and weather (511814)
6.00 Home and Away (7) (355511)
6.25 Regional Weather (249020)
6.30 Regional News (7) (611)
7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers (9659)



Elizabeth Bradley as Maud (7.30pm)

HTV West
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2263098)
1.50 Blue Heelers (5605524)
2.50-3.20 High Road (3804853)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (867291)
6.25-7.00 Central News (742185)
11.40 Charlie Grace (118253)
1.00am Late and Loud (5655503)
2.40 ITV Sport Classics (6432437)
2.45 Film: Emergency Call (186202)
4.15 Central Jobfinder '97 (136321)
4.50 Eastern Mix (9354769)
5.20 Astor Eye (3209012)

CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2263098)
1.50 Blue Heelers (5605524)
2.50-3.20 High Road (3804853)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (867291)
6.25-7.00 Central News (742185)
11.40 Charlie Grace (118253)
1.00am Late and Loud (5655503)
2.40 ITV Sport Classics (6432437)
2.45 Film: Emergency Call (186202)
4.15 Central Jobfinder '97 (136321)
4.50 Eastern Mix (9354769)
5.20 Astor Eye (3209012)

WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2263098)
1.50 Blue Heelers (5605524)
2.50-3.20 High Road (3804853)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (867291)
6.25-7.00 Central News (742185)
11.40 Charlie Grace (118253)
1.00am Late and Loud (5655503)
2.40 ITV Sport Classics (6432437)
2.45 Film: Emergency Call (186202)
4.15 Central Jobfinder '97 (136321)
4.50 Eastern Mix (9354769)
5.20 Astor Eye (3209012)

CHANNEL 4
6.00am Sesame Street (87524) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (82582)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (7) (5338524) 9.25 Schools at Work (910017) 9.30 Geography Junction (7) (4451185) 9.45 Book Box (7) (4449340)
10.00 Stage Two Science (7) (6513235)
10.15 Rel-a-Tat-Tat (963856) 10.30 Place and People (7) (2378155) 10.50 Shop, Look, Listen (7) (8230949) 11.00 Living and Growing (7) (3371552) 11.15 The Mix (7) (3381185)
11.30 The Pulse (7) (7) (8001) 12.00 Sesame Street (41582) 12.30pm Light Lunch (84630) 1.30 Gardens Without Borders (7) (8437458) 1.45 Mongo Makoonga (5816340)
1.50 Rotten to the Core (1965, b/w). The first of a week's season of films by the Brothers, Dudley Sutton, Kenneth Griffith and Charlotte Rampling (82000104)
3.30 Collector's Lot presented by Sue Cook (7) (807) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (7) (524)
4.30 Countdown (7) (1714458) 4.55 Monty Williams (7) (8554811) 5.30 Pet Rescue (7) (388)
6.00 Home Improvement (7) (901)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (7) (253)
7.00 Channel 4 News (7) (140088)
7.35 Golden Oldies (87008)

ANGLIA
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (2263098)
1.55 Homecoming (9779154)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (2942456)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (867291)
6.25-7.00 Anglia Weather (72185)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (262348)
10.45 Is That It? (87758)
11.15 Nash Bridges (411920)
12.10am Fair Cops (1051499)

CHANNEL 5
CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: picture, 12075 GHz; sound, 12.02 and 12.07 MHz.
6.00am 5 News Early (2583185)
7.30 Milkshake (4246727) 7.35 Suckin' Around (7) (6547678) 8.00 Haykazoo (7) (3243663)
8.30 WideWorld: The Jewish migration to the United States (7/10) (3243104)
9.00 Espresso (252630) 10.00 Exclusive (7) (8625982) 10.30 Pole Stars (7) (843348)
11.00 Leezee (7280036) 11.50 Double Espresso (8440406) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (7) (6643140) 12.30pm Family Affairs (7) (8477359)
1.00 5 News (5742765) 1.05 Sunset Beach (7) (3259543) 2.00 5's Company (827611)
3.30 Anastasia: The Mystery of Anna (1986) starring Amy Irving, Rex Harrison, Edward Fox and Olivia de Havilland. A made-for-television historical drama (concludes tomorrow) about Anna Anderson, who claimed to be the only surviving member of the Russian Royal Family. Directed by Marvin J. Chomsky (8434253)
5.20 5's Company — Late Extra (13612830) 5.30 Whitey (7) (3612291) 6.00 100 Per Cent (3611104)
6.30 Family Affairs: Susie is feeling suffocated by Holly's constant attentions. Chris begins to feel lonely (7) (3602456)
7.00 Exclusive: Showbiz gossip (5236330)
7.30 Dwellers of the Deep: The coral of the Barrier Reef (7) (3681340)
8.00 Period Rooms: Interior design series. Tonight's contestants transform a room into a replica of a Victorian doctor's study (7) (521678)
8.30 5 News (7) (5238185)
9.00 The Sweeney: Vintage Flying Squad drama starring John Thaw and Dennis Waterman (9601678)
10.00 The Comedy Network with Jenny Eclair, Jim Tavaré and Stewart Lee (478529)
10.30 Ties and Fibs: Light-hearted medical quiz (843807)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Comedy and chat (4222185)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (8029104)
12.45am Live and Dangerous: Sports magazine (4581656)
3.45 Asian Football Show (8411296)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco: Police drama series (733505)
5.30 100 Per Cent (7) (2516895)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with the correct time. The Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (V+) and Video PlusCode (V+) are trademarks of Camstar Development Ltd.

Steve Coogan as Alan (10.00pm)

Elizabeth Bradley as Maud (7.30pm)

Elizabeth Bradley as Maud (7.30pm)

Elizabeth Bradley as Maud (7.30pm)

Elizabeth Bradley as Maud (7.30pm)

SKY 1
6.00am Morning Glory (872930) 6.00 Hotel (84195) 6.30m Action World (25259) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (43017) 12.00m Opera (19478) 1.00pm Game Show (56128) 2.00m Star Wars: The Force Awakens (56128) 3.00m Jerry Jones (56128) 4.00m Oprah Winfrey (14458) 5.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 6.00m The 5th Wave (1039) 7.00m The Simpsons (2785) 7.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 8.00m The Simpsons (2785) 8.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 9.00m The Simpsons (2785) 9.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 10.00m The Simpsons (2785) 10.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 11.00m The Simpsons (2785) 11.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 12.00m The Simpsons (2785) 12.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 1.00am The Simpsons (2785) 1.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 2.00m The Simpsons (2785) 2.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 3.00m The Simpsons (2785) 3.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 4.00m The Simpsons (2785) 4.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 5.00m The Simpsons (2785) 5.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1039) 6.00m The Simpsons (2785) 6.30m Star Trek: 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AT THE TOP 46
Granada results unlikely to disappoint

BUSINESS

INDEBTED 48
Roger Bootle on deficits and surpluses



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997

Financial turmoil prompts emergency meeting in China

BY JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING AND JANET BUSH IN LONDON

CHINA is holding a top-level meeting this week to review the turmoil in Asian financial markets and to find ways of heading off damage to its own economy. The leadership in Beijing has stood on the sidelines watching as the Asian markets have buckled. However, now that the crisis, which started in Thailand, has spread to the region's economic powerhouses in Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea and is badly hitting the

fragile economy in Japan, China feels increasingly threatened.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 index suffered a loss of nearly 5 per cent over the course of last week and is expected to come under further pressure in the days ahead.

Several Japanese banks and securities companies have had their credit ratings humiliatingly downgraded amid mounting concern about the instability of Japan's financial system.

On Friday, Standard & Poor's cut one of its ratings of Yamaichi Securities, one of Japan's big four brokerages, and IBCA,

Europe's credit rating agency, lowered ratings on four Japanese banks. Yamaichi said yesterday that it was considering restructuring into three separate entities.

The meeting in Beijing is being organised by the State Council, China's cabinet, and will include officials from key government departments, the country's securities regulatory agency and banking officials.

Sources in Hong Kong said that President Jiang Zemin, Li Peng, the Prime Minister, and Zhu Rongji, a vice-premier and economics czar, would take part in, or

closely monitor, the meeting. Discussions will focus on limiting financial risk in China's banking system. On the agenda is the possible reorganisation of the People's Bank of China, the central bank, along the lines of the US Federal Reserve.

Analysts believe that the leadership's move is a signal that China faces a risk of banking insolvency unless it can curb the massive debts of the state-owned banks and reform the financial system.

China's four big state-owned banks have run up huge debts in their political role of keeping afloat loss-making, state-

owned enterprises. About 20 per cent of their total loans, worth an estimated \$212 billion, are believed to be irrecoverable.

China had hoped to sell some state-owned firms to relieve the burden on the financial system, but that now looks difficult given the collapse of Asian markets and, in particular, the fall in the Hong Kong stock market where Chinese "red-chip" companies were to be floated.

The Japanese Bond Research Institute, Japan's biggest credit rating company, last week said that the health of the Chinese central bank was declining and

that the four state banks were likely to be hard hit as state-owned enterprises went bankrupt. Amid signs of slowing growth, China is displaying some of the symptoms of its faltering Asian neighbours, including huge empty office blocks in Beijing and Shanghai. Demand for its manufactured goods is declining as currency devaluations in the region render them uncompetitive.

Millions of workers in state-run industries have lost their jobs, are underemployed, or are staying at home on a nominal income "waiting for work".

Rights case to earn millions for employees

BY CHRIS AYKES

MILLIONS of pounds in compensation are expected to be paid out to 1,500 public sector employees after a High Court hearing today, during which the Government will admit that Britain broke European law on workers' rights for more than a decade.

The case applies to public sector employees whose jobs were transferred to the private sector during the 1980s. Many of them were either fired or found that their pay and conditions had drastically worsened with their new employers, in direct contravention of the Acquired Rights Directive adopted by the Council of the European Communities in 1977.

Dave Bradley, a refuse collector, had his pay cut by £60 per week to £185, his holiday entitlement almost halved to 15 days and his sick pay and pension scheme were abandoned. Mr Bradley was also forced to work compulsory overtime and his union was not recognised by his new employer.

Britain's three biggest unions - Unison, GMB and TGWU - claim that for ten years the Government knew it was in breach of European law and that under principles

set by a test case in Italy - known as the *Francovich* principles - workers who lost out as a result are entitled to compensation.

The Government has agreed that the workers have the right to sue and that during the 1980s Britain failed to meet its obligations under European law.

The decision has been welcomed by the unions as a landmark change in the Government's attitude towards employment rights.

Jack Dromey, national secretary of the TGWU, said: "For ten years Tory ministers deliberately broke the law because they wanted to promote a Dutch auction of who could pay the least to the fewest in the privatisation of public services."

"The public lost out as service standards tumbled. Public servants paid the price with cuts in pay, conditions and jobs, and the relationship between public authorities and private contractors was poisoned. This case will show future governments that never again can European law on workers' rights be broken with impunity."

Roger Poole, assistant general secretary of Unison, added: "The new Government has

been lumbered with a Tory legacy of illegality. Today's landmark ruling is a posthumous page in the last Government's book of injustice. Hundreds of thousands of low-paid workers, who lost their livelihoods will welcome this as a signal of hope."

In 1993 persistent lobbying by unions helped to force the Government to incorporate public sector workers into the existing Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations, known as TUPE, which formerly protected only private sector employees.

A year later the British Government was found guilty of deliberate law-breaking in the European Court of Justice, and a group of refuse collectors from Eastbourne, who had lost their jobs after they were transferred to the private sector, received compensation totalling £135,000.

Although some sources have claimed the compensation expected to be paid to the 1,500 workers could total more than £1 billion, more conservative estimates suggest that the workers will receive several thousand pounds each, making the total bill to the Government several million pounds.



Le Méridien Grand Pacific, Tokyo, is to open in June as part of Granada's fast-expanding Méridien hotel chain

Tokyo links in Granada chain

BY DOMINIC WALSH

A \$1 BILLION (£587 million) hotel development in Tokyo is the latest addition to Granada's Méridien Hotels chain. The hotel, Le Méridien Grand Pacific, is due to open next June as part of Tokyo's waterfront development with 884 bedrooms and 14 restaurants. Méridien has been awarded the management contract by the project's joint owners,

Keihin Electric Express Railway and the Keihyo hotel group, which owns the existing Méridien hotel in central Tokyo.

Méridien Hotels has expanded from 58 hotels to more than 90 since Granada acquired Forté almost two years ago. This has been achieved partly by rebranding Forté Grand properties. The target is 150 by

2000. Tokyo's Grand Pacific is one of 16 hotels under construction. Other locations include Mexico, Bali, Thailand, Yaman and the Philippines.

One of the most fertile hunting grounds for new contracts has been the Middle East and India region, where the company already has 16 hotels. It has six projects under development and 14 sites under review.

Peter Cardnell, Forté's London managing director, has been made managing director, Middle East and West Asia, to reinforce its position. Méridien hopes to bolster its relatively small presence in the US by forming a marketing alliance with an established operator.

Companies, page 46

Bupa acts fast in Care First bid battle

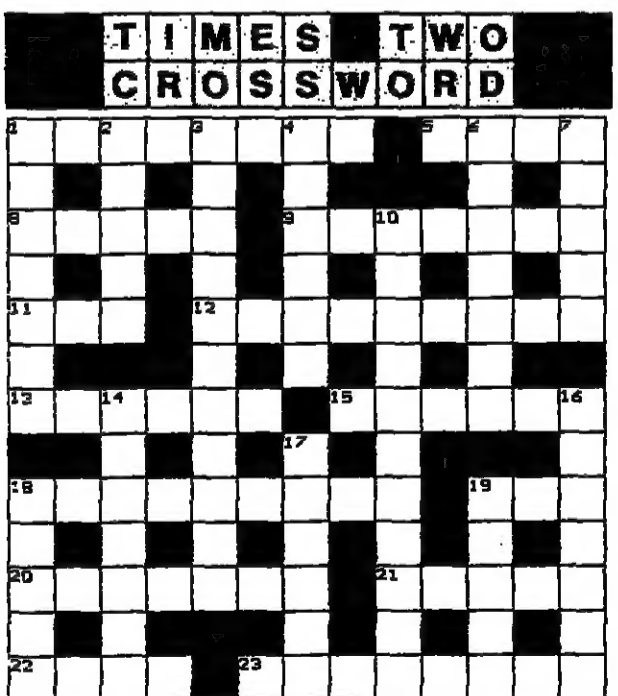
BY JON ASHWORTH

BUPA, the private medical insurer bidding £241 million for Care First, is to rush out its offer document in the face of rival bids for the nursing home operator.

At least two rival suitors, backed by venture capital, have expressed an interest in Care First, which last week rejected Bupa's unsolicited offer. Chai Patel, who resigned as chief executive two months ago after falling out with Keith Bradshaw, the Care First chairman, could reveal today that he is fronting one rival bid team. A further bid is understood to have the backing of Warburg Pincus, the US venture capital group, which would look to securitise the homes on the debt market.

Bupa's offer document, which could be published as early as this week, is likely to argue that its cash bid of 150p per Care First share fully values the company. A buyer would have to assume £105 million in debt, and Bupa questions whether venture capitalists would gain adequate returns within the usual five-to-seven year exit.

As a provident, Bupa would argue that it is better equipped to hang in for the long term. Abbey Life and Investors, who together speak for 12 per cent of Care First, have pledged to support Bupa unless a higher offer materialises.



No 1253

- ACROSS**
- Customary (8)
 - Minor quarrel (4)
 - A tree goes, sheet (5)
 - Shrink and die (7)
 - Enemy (3)
 - S. Am. mammal: a *Lima* (9)
 - Companionway (6)
 - Horse-drawn carriage (6)
 - Reduction of sentence: abatement (7)
 - Garden implement (3)
 - Tiny piece of text, conversation (7)
 - Is Aubrey's were Brief (5)
 - Roman dress (4)
 - One standing guard (8)
- DOWN**
- Optimistic (7)
 - Culpability (5)
 - You have been rumbled (8,4,2,2)
 - Take for granted (6)
 - Without effect: one disabled (7)
 - Book page number (5)
 - Sir W. Scott novel (11)
 - Abandoning: selling cheap (7)
 - Domestic implement (7)
 - Moral goodness (6)
 - Take (exam) again (5)
 - Sale port (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1252
ACROSS: 1 Homer 4 Simpson 8 Ornaments 9 Urn
10 Burn 11 Straddle 13 Solace 14 Crosby 17 Agar-agar
19 Cain 22 Doh 23 Caretaker 24 Moneyed 25 Hedge
DOWN: 1 H-bomb 2 Mongrel 3 Romp 4 Senate
5 Massacre 6 Sound 7 Nunnery 12 Scratchy 13 Stardom
15 Stacked 16 Hatred 18 Ashen 20 Marge 21 Ich

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Boeing chief faces \$1.2bn lawsuit

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

PHIL CONDIT, the executive chairman of Boeing, is facing a class action suit alleging insider trading of \$1.2 billion (£705 million) worth of company shares. Boeing shareholders, including those in the UK, could win million-dollar compensation payments.

The world's largest aerospace company announced last month it was taking a \$1.6 billion charge to pay for severe production problems that would delay jet delivery.

The group's share price went into a tailspin and investors lost \$4 billion. The shareholders who filed the suit claim the chairman and a number of other executives knew of the production problems long before the announcement and must have been fully aware of them when they sold their own shares.

The shareholders also contend that the executives kept quiet about the problems to protect the stock-price merger with McDonnell Douglas. If Boeing's share price had declined earlier, the deal may have failed. The suit alleges that in June the group had already experienced \$183 million in cost overruns which it failed to acknowledge. It



Condit denies impropriety

claims quarterly results published on June 30, only days before the merger event through, had been falsified.

Steve Berman, one of the shareholders' lawyers, said: "Management misled shareholders. When the truth came out on October 22 - well after the merger was complete - the stock market reacted violently and Boeing shareholders lost billions. British investors who bought Boeing shares between July 21 and October 22 may participate in the suit."

Mr Condit and Boyd Givan, the chief financial officer, sold more than 34,000 shares after the completion of the merger but before the profit warning. The group and its executives have denied any impropriety.

Barclays silent on NatWest

Barclays would not be drawn yesterday on renewed speculation that it is pushing for a merger with NatWest, amid reports that JP Morgan, the US investment bank, has been appointed to advise on its plan.

A spokesman said: "In common with all companies, Barclays continually monitors developments within its own industry." A merger with NatWest would bring huge cost savings, but would almost certainly fall foul of UK regulators worried about the resulting market dominance in small and medium-sized lending and credit cards.

Barclays has used JP Morgan as a firm of management consultants, but would not comment on whether they were being retained for a deal with NatWest, reportedly advised by Lazard.

Export cheer

Britain's small and medium-sized companies remain confident about export prospects in spite of sterling's strength, according to 31, the venture capitalist. A survey shows that 60 per cent of respondents think that sterling's appreciation has affected their export volumes to only a small extent or not at all over the past year. Only 24 per cent reported a significant reduction. Overall, the number of companies reporting a fall in the value of exports was matched by those seeing an increase. Significantly more companies expect exports to rise than than them to fall.

Liberty talks

Liberty directors are to meet institutional shareholders this week to try to win further support for Denis Cassidy, chairman, who faces calls for his resignation. The board hopes to find a buyer for the retailer, saying that moves by the Stewart-Liberty family will harm shareholder value.

Tomorrow
British Steel will show how the strong pound has had an adverse effect on its half-year figures

This week in THE TIMES



Wednesday
Janet Bush looks at America's strategy as the euro approaches

Thursday
John Grieve-Smith on the necessity for the Government to have an economic policy

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Pearl Assurance	44.00	Pearl Assurance	99.00
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